

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 415

I, Moses Boone, President of Colored Planet Inc organization, am writing in support of Senate Bill 415. I see fixing the present PACE law as helping the State of Connecticut ; in reducing our reliance upon fossil fuels, creating jobs here in the state which can not be exported, and creating a more sustainable environment in critical emergency situations(i.e. Hurricane Irene, and the early Snowstorm in October). I support this bill to expand opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the state's existing residential and commercial buildings by authorizing municipalities to issue Property Assessed Clean Energy bonds.

This strategy eliminates the prohibitive upfront cost of most energy retrofits, making them affordable to a wider range of property owners, and has the potential to create business for small energy companies at a time when such opportunities are sorely needed.

This is a proven program that is already succeeding in California, New York, Ohio, Vermont and eleven other states, and Connecticut needs to authorize it so that we don't lose out on potential federal funding.

Everyone is coming to You stating that the situation is critical both for those that desire passage and those that wish to repeal Bills. Fact! Connecticut has the second highest energy rate out of all of the 50 states. Every year we all hear how we must fix this problem in order to make Connecticut more competitive and attractive to investors and businesses. Therefore, I am not going to say that it is critical. Let me use this analogy~" Money is Honey".

If you wish to attract bees then plant beautiful, fragrant flowers and do not use pesticides on your lawn. Bees will come collect the pollen and then go back to the hives and start doing their dance telling the hive. This is where you go and how you have to get there to find the flowers which are ripe and ready; and there were no lethal legal traps to be seen. In no time flat there are bees all over the place collecting pollen and taking it back to the hives creating sweet delicious honey (Money) which everyone enjoys and benefits from. You! We! The entire State of Connecticut by making the PACE program attractive to investors (the honey bees) so that we all benefit.

So, I beseech you to repair the existing PACE law which inadvertently gave the PACE assessments a lower status (toxic to bees) than other municipal tax assessments. This is the legislative fix you, we, and I need to make the program viable and attract investors (honey bees) at reasonable interest rates (flowers, pollen). PACE financing programs are currently all for heating fuels, should incorporate renewable energy sources, and should be allowed to transfer with the sale of the property.

This proposal is win-win: it costs the state nothing, makes retrofits accessible to homeowners, cuts energy use and stimulates local economies. I urge the members of the Committee to vote in favor of Senate Bill 415.

Sincerely,

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