



March 15, 2012

Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee.

As I'm sure you have heard, or will hear, from many home performance contractors there is a major concern related to the \$500,000.00 cap that is currently in place for serving customers using oil or propane heating under the Home Energy Solutions Program (HES). This arbitrary spending limit will severely limit the established contractor infrastructure from serving the 48% of homes using fossil fuels. Rather than reiterating the obvious repercussions this limitation will have on the vendors like me and our workforce, I decided to take a different approach to the issue and ask you to think outside of the box on this issue.

I think we are all aware that the establishment of the original system benefits charge was to use the electric (and later) natural gas surcharges to achieve savings of those specific energy sources and limit the need to build new facilities to serve growing demand. The costs and savings under this scenario are relatively easy to determine. Thus, the focus for over twenty years has been on customers with electric or gas heating. Rather than utilize strict cost benefits as the primary driver of energy efficiency programs, I propose that it is time to consider the societal benefits of serving all customers who pay into the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) which may not be so easily be translatable into strictly dollars and Cents.

It's a given that every customer of Connecticut Light and Power and United Illuminating Company, as well as the customers served by the municipal utilities in the state pay into CEEF on a monthly basis. Here are some points for consideration as to why all customers should be allowed to participate on an equal basis:

### Direct Electric Savings Considerations

- Many residents, myself included, heat with oil but have central air conditioning. Many also have electric water heaters.
- The vast majority of fossil boilers and furnaces utilize electric fans, circulating pumps, and blower motors to operate.
- Approximately 27% of the dwelling units in Connecticut utilize well water. My guess would be that the percentage of these residents with oil or propane heat is higher than 48%. Since the HES program provides water saving devices, the wells run less often.

### Societal Benefits Resulting from Serving Fossil Fuel Customers with HES

- Cleaner Air – Connecticut childhood asthma rates are between 2 and 3 percent higher than the national average according to the Center for Disease Control. By providing air

and duct sealing in these homes, we not only save energy but we reduce air pollution significantly.

- Cleaner Air- The less fuel consumed correlates to fewer road trips for the delivery trucks.
- Cleaner Air – Since HES services include recommendations for system upgrades, we've seen a lot of older inefficient equipment replaced with modern clean burning units.
- Health and Safety – The HES visit includes inspection for combustion issues, possible asbestos risks, in some cases, electrical concerns such as knob and tube wiring. In 2011 our company was unable to serve nearly 350 customers because of health concerns identified at the time of the visit.
- Health and Safety – HES services can eliminate the need to make the choice between comfort and saving money.
- Health and Safety – In extreme cases, given the high price of fuel, HES can mean the difference between eating properly and staying warm.
- Quality of Life – Could the savings in heating, hot water, and electricity costs mean the difference between a Mom or Dad having to get a part time job to supplement the family's income? Can a value be placed on that?

Thank you very much for offering me the opportunity to present my thoughts on this important issue. In closing, I would ask that the committee support Section 11 of SB 415 and re-write Section 51 to remove the dollar cap that has been placed on serving oil and propane consumers.