



State of Connecticut General Assembly
Energy and Technology Committee
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

March 15, 2012

RE: SB 415

Esteemed Committee Members:

Since 2009 I have had the pleasure of creating over twenty five new jobs for hard-working Connecticut residents. It has been a highlight of my professional life to be able to offer employment to so many during difficult economic times. And I know, without question, that had it not been for Connecticut's Home Energy Solutions Program, most, if not all of these men and women, would likely still be unemployed.

Now I, along with my fellow HES vendors, am compelled to speak out not only for my colleagues, but also for the residents of Connecticut who benefit from this extraordinary and necessary service. Section 11 of SB 415, in particular, speaks to the heart of my concern, that the utility companies and their affiliated vendors be given the opportunity not only to continue the important work we have started, but to expand the breadth and scope of that work in order to help the State reach its goal of eighty percent home efficiency by 2030. This is a lofty yet attainable goal, but one that can only be achieved through dedicated cooperation between the State, the utility companies, the HES vendors and providers, and rate-payers who contribute to the fund. SB 415 goes a long way toward enacting that cooperation.

While SB 415 is an important step, it is in need of improvement. Section 51 falls short of adequately empowering the concerned parties to reach that goal. Placing a cap on funding for ratepayers who heat their homes by methods other than electricity or natural gas is both short-sighted and counterproductive. And considering that the majority of Connecticut homes still use oil heat, it excludes a large portion of that population that already pays into the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. Why punish these homeowners? Have they not already been punished enough by skyrocketing oil prices? And while these homeowners heat their homes with oil, one must presume that they cool

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their homes with electric appliances. Furthermore, to exclude such a large percentage of the population limits the homes HES vendors can service, and this will, without question, result in a loss of jobs, and nobody can possibly be in support of eliminating jobs when we only now have seen what appears to be a reduction in joblessness. Please re-write Section 51 of SB 415 to remove the funding cap that section 132 of PA 11-80 instituted for oil measures.

On behalf of the better than two dozen men and women who pay their rent, mortgages, tuition, taxes, and child care expenses with the wages they earn from my company, I beseech the Committee to approve SB 415, with the changes suggested above.

Thank you for your consideration and for the work you do on behalf of the People of the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Gulick", written over a horizontal line.

Steven J. Gulick
Principal

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