



**NORTHEAST ENERGY
EFFICIENCY COUNCIL**

A business association of the energy efficiency industry

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**Energy & Technology Committee
Public Hearing
March 15, 2012**

**SB 415- AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED
CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM, WATER CONSERVATION AND THE
OPERATIONS OF THE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE AND INVESTMENT
AUTHORITY**

The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter (NEEC-CT), a business association of the energy industry, would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to submit testimony.

NEEC-CT supports **SB 415- AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM, WATER CONSERVATION AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE AND INVESTMENT AUTHORITY**, specifically Sections 56 and 57 of the bill. These sections establish a commercial PACE program in Connecticut.

SB 415 establishes a creative financing mechanism, which is needed in the commercial and/or industrial market. Incentives are great however, the owner still needs to come up with the capital of the net amount after the incentives. Borrowing money has been difficult with the financial market turmoil. NEEC-CT likes the term of fifteen to twenty years. For a commercial and/or industrial application, you can "fit" a lot of energy efficiency improvements within that time frame. The benefit of this section is people are trading money they are currently spending on energy bills for money towards a loan on a property tax bill while gaining significant infrastructure improvements. NEEC-CT supports language that will allow for PACE at the state level. This expansion would allow even greater participation.

PA 11-80, last year's energy bill, allowed PACE for residential buildings with less than five units. This bill will expand the PACE program. NEEC-CT sees this as a benefit to Connecticut. NEEC-CT believes this as an economic development bill for the energy efficiency companies in Connecticut. Energy efficiency measures are documented and verified through independent evaluations and audits. There is a 4 to 1 return on energy efficiency investments.

For every \$1 invested the return is more than \$4 in savings. These savings benefit everyone in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time. We urge you to support SB 415, and specifically the PACE program.