



In Support of
**SENATE BILL 450, AN ACT CONCERNING
ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Submitted by
Pat Stanton, Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
March 21, 2012

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 450, AAC Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy. My name is Pat Stanton; I am the Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at Conservation Services Group (CSG), the leading provider of residential energy efficiency programs in North America. CSG is in full support of Section 1 of SB 450, which will allow heating oil customers to have greater access to Connecticut's energy efficiency programs.

Founded in 1984, CSG is a mission-driven nonprofit that provides design, development and implementation of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy services, with particular emphasis on residential retrofit. As the nation's leader in residential energy efficiency with operations in 22 different states including Connecticut, we recognize that there is a real and urgent need to create efficiency programs for oil heating customers.

That is why in 2010 CSG administered the first-in-the-nation ARRA funded Oil Heat Efficiency Program Pilot in the state of Massachusetts. This rebate program met savings goals, concluded on time and under budget, and dramatically reduced energy costs for 516 working families, replacing old heating equipment that on average had been in service for over 39 years. Saving households on average \$1000 annually and employing 238 heating contractors, it provides a real-life example of how an oil heat efficiency program will save consumers money, create local jobs, and reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

In light of the success of this pilot, CSG formed the MA Oil Heat Save Energy Coalition; a diverse group of oil dealers, heating and cooling contractors, environmental protection groups, and energy efficiency businesses and service organizations. This Coalition has helped support Massachusetts House Bill 3897; "An Act further promoting energy efficiency and green jobs," which seeks to create a fund to serve the roughly 950,000 Massachusetts homes and thousands more businesses, schools and other public buildings that depend on heating oil.

We write to you today, because it is our belief that Massachusetts and Connecticut have the unique opportunity with these two bills to pave the way for other Northeast states—where far more homes rely on outdated heating oil systems compared to other parts of the country. While other states are looking for ways to bring an efficiency program to oil customers, Connecticut can remain a leader in the

region by passing this cutting-edge policy that will effectively harness the power of cost-effective energy efficiency.

The 2011 ACEEE Scorecard ranked Connecticut in the top ten—a testament to the fact that it has continued to show growth and improvement in the home performance and energy efficiency sector. However, if nearly half of the homes in the state that heat with oil lose access to Home Energy Solutions, demand for audits and other services will face real and dramatic declines, stunting Connecticut's growth potential. **This bill can reverse that by providing full and reliable access to state efficiency programs, and greatly increase Connecticut's chances of reclaiming the #1 ACEEE ranking.**

Please support SB 450 for the potential cost savings it offers the 48% of Connecticut's housing stock that heat with oil, its air quality and GHG reduction benefits, and the jobs it will protect and create.

As a company that has already successfully piloted an oil heat program and collaborated on a very similar piece of legislation for the state of Massachusetts, we fully support SB 450 AA Concerning Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy and hope our testimony provides evidence on why the Committee should as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions on HB 3897, The Oil Heat Pilot, or any other matter pertaining to this subject.

Sincerely,

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