

Teresa Eickel, Executive Director
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
553 Farmington Ave, Suite 201
Hartford, CT 06105

In support of SB 450: An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter today. I am here today on behalf of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, a faith-based environmental non-profit representing 400 churches, synagogues, and mosques. **On behalf of my organization and its Board of Directors, we strongly support SB 450, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.**

We are very concerned that funding for energy efficiency programs for oil customers is about to run out and strongly support this legislation as a means to create a stable source of funding in the future. Forty-eight percent of the state's residents heat with oil and denying them access to funding for energy efficiency programs will ultimately cost them hundreds of dollars a year in heating bills. In addition, losing this funding will very likely result in job loss for the many contractors who provide services such as the Home Energy Solutions program. In this economy, I urge you to support this legislation, which will not only save CT residents hundreds of dollars per year, it will also secure jobs for our economic growth. Finally, promoting energy efficiency is the only choice in a world where climate change is resulting in more and more extreme weather events. We had a hurricane in August, a devastating snowstorm in October, followed by an extraordinarily warm winter. As I write, it is 80 degrees on March 19. Climate change is not only real, but it is happening right now, and we must take strong action to turn the tide.

The oil companies will tell you that they cannot afford this, that it will impact their business. Please remember that historically, the oil companies in CT have been completely resistant to participating in ANY energy efficiency programs. Unlike the electric and natural gas companies, they have zero interest in encouraging people to use less of their product. They see all energy efficiency measures as a threat to their bottom line and they go out of their way to discourage the implementation of energy savings programs. When they tell you why they oppose this bill, please remember that their only concern is their profit.

As a person of faith, I believe that this is God's planet, not ours, and we must treat it as such. We are called to be stewards of God's earth and to take care of it – among other things, this means efficient and wise use of the resources He has given us.

Please support SB 450 and help create a stable source of funding for energy efficiency programs for all CT residents, regardless of their fuel source.

Thank you for your time.

Teresa Eickel