



SAVE HOME ENERGY, INC

Comprehensive Energy Audits

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Energy & Technology Committee

Public Hearing

March 20, 2012

SB 450- An Act Concerning Energy Conservation And Renewable Energy

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. My name is **Gale Johansen**. Thank your hearing my testimony today.

I am here today on behalf of **Save Home Energy, Inc.**, to urge support for **SB 450-An Act Concerning Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy**.

We are a vendor for the Home Energy Solutions Program, and a Connecticut residential oil heating customer. As Vendors in the HES program, and as CT employers and residents, we feel that placing an annual cap of \$500,000 on servicing oil and propane heating customers in the HES program will create a serious hardship on the companies that participate in this program. Lay-offs are inevitable, very soon, if this cap is not removed. It will also ruin the prospect of future job creation, and waste millions of dollars already spent training Connecticut residents for a future in Connecticut's Energy Economy.

While I was attending the public hearing last Thursday, we, as a HES vendor, received an email instructing us **NOT** to schedule **ANY** oil or propane HES audits past **May 14**, due to the possibility of funds running out for this year.

This is a prime indicator of the hardship that will be placed on us as employers, and an indicator of just how many customers will not benefit from the HES program, if the cap is not removed.

We also believe that it is discriminatory against the approximately **48 to 50% of CT households that heat with deliverable fuels**, some without a choice, in part due to rural locations where alternatives are not available, and without enormous expense, especially in today's economy.

Year-to-date, approximately **62%** of homes served by HES have been to deliverable fuel heated homes, and account for about **30%** of the electric savings. Granted, this has been a mild heating season for CT, but **NO ONE** can guarantee that this will be the case in the future, as history proves.

Oil heated households contribute to the CEEF when they participate in the HES program by saving on their heating **AND** electric costs. Oil furnaces and boilers run on electricity, as do septic systems, wells, and air conditioning. Connecticut's energy efficiency programs help cut heating and electric bills for residents, create jobs for small business, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We, as HES vendors, have invested, and continue to invest, considerable amounts of time and money in the hiring and training of our technical and office staff, the purchase and maintenance of fleet vehicles, equipment, and materials to service the HES program, as well as the ongoing investment in computer and IT technology, and training required by the HES programs.

We are, and continue to be, committed to the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund programs, and ask you to reconsider the options that should be available to **ALL** Connecticut households, regardless of their home heating fuel.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

Gale Johansen

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