

**Testimony of Victory Energy Solutions  
Before the Energy & Technology Committee**

S.B. No. 450 (RAISED) An Act Concerning Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

*Submitted by*  
Nicholas Meister

March 20, 2012

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

I am speaking before you today to support the language in Senate Bill 450 that **eliminates the cap on oil heated homes.**

My name is Nicholas Meister and I am employed by Victory Energy Solutions as a Building Scientist. Victory Energy Solutions, located in New Britain, is a three year old Energy Management and Home Performance Company and an approved vendor for the Home Energy Solutions Program. Prior to coming to Victory Energy Solutions I had a job with limited opportunities working for a cable company. Many of field technicians I work with were either unemployed or underemployed prior to coming to Victory. The company has sent me and other employees through numerous training programs and our income and level of expertise has grown substantially as a result. Last year the work force at Victory expanded and contracted due to uncertainty in the CEEF funding scenario and its impact on the ability to promote the Home Energy Solutions Program. It is our understanding that this May our work may be cut in half because of legislation that places a cap on the servicing of oil heated homes. This means I or other dedicated, experienced technicians may lose our jobs. I am a single parent with a teenage daughter and Victory Energy Solutions provides me with a great career and a way to support my daughter.

I have helped hundreds of homeowners who heat with oil, make their homes more energy efficient become and save money on their heating costs. For some of these homeowners, the escalating price of oil has required choices to be made between a cold house, food on the table or paying their mortgage. These Home Energy Solutions customers are very grateful for the work that we do in lowering their oil bills, making their homes safer, healthier and more comfortable. Did you know when cold air leaks into a home in the winter it brings in dry the air requiring humidifiers and is the cause of sinus headaches, colds and other respiratory problems? When we seal those leaks we help eliminate those problems.

Nothing is more satisfying then hearing the words "Thank You Nick, Thank you so much for helping my Home." I would hate to have to tell a potential customer who heats with oil that she will have to pay \$400 for the same service that others would pay only \$75. It is my job to help people save money on their heating, cooling, water, and electric bill.

This past weekend Victory Energy Solutions exhibited at the Hartford Home Builders Association event at the Convention center. More than half of our leads were oil customers. One oil customer explained to me how much she needed this service due to the rising costs of oil and how grateful she was that Connecticut had this program.

If the state is going offer energy efficiency services, it's only fair that everyone have an opportunity to access it equally. In doing so we'll create more jobs, and a greener future. By eliminating the cap on oil heated homes you will improve Connecticut's economy and the quality of life that our residents deserve. This is my first time ever testifying and I really appreciate the opportunity to do so today for this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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