

ConnPIRG

— Standing Up —
To Powerful Interests

Written Testimony of Abraham Scarr, Director
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)
in support of
Raised Bill 6650: An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Programs

Chairperson LeBeau, Chairperson Perone and Members of the Committee: My name is Abraham Scarr and I am the Director of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Raised Bill 6650: An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Programs.

ConnPIRG strongly supports Raised Bill 6650 and urges the committee to issue a Joint Favorable recommendation.

Consumers benefit from effective investments in energy efficiency. By making our homes more energy efficient, we save energy and money.

There is no good reason that consumers that heat their homes with oil should not enjoy the full benefits of the state's energy efficiency programs. Oil heating efficiency funding has been stop and go over the years and will run out this July if action is not taken. Establishing a stable funding mechanism so that consumers heating their home with oil can fully participate in the state's efficiency programs is critical to hitting our state's energy efficiency goals.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection estimates that a conservation charge of 3.5 cents/gallon will effectively fund heating oil efficiency. An average heating oil customer would spend less than \$25 on efficiency as part of the \$2500 they spend on oil over the course of the year. This is a modest investment that can pay back many times over for consumers in the form of energy savings.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill and please contact me if you have any questions.

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