

**Testimony of Chris Schweitzer, New Haven Environmental Justice Network
Before the Commerce Committee In Support of HOUSE BILL 6650 , AN ACT
CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

Submitted by Chris Schweitzer, New Haven Environmental Justice Network; March 18, 2013

Senator LeBeau , Representative Perone , and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 6650, AAC Energy Efficiency Programs

The New Haven Environmental Justice Network is pleased to support this bill. Connecticut's energy efficiency programs help state residents lower their energy usage, which not only cuts bills but also improves air quality and reduces our state's greenhouse gas emissions

However, because fuel oil and propane customers do not pay into the efficiency fund via their heating bills, they have limited access to these programs. Last year's legislation provided a stop gap, but that will soon expire.

Without action this session to establish a new and steady funding stream, the 48 percent of Connecticut homes that use fuel oil will soon lose most of their access to cost saving , pollution cutting programs like Home Energy Solutions.

HB 6650 offers a definitive solution by establishing a small surcharge to supply an oil efficiency fund.

Please support HB 6650 for the savings it offers to the half of Connecticut ratepayers who heat with oil , for its benefits to air quality and GHG reduction , and for the jobs it will help create at our local efficiency businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.