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Written Testimony of Judith Allen
Before the Connecticut Assembly Commerce Committee
March 19, 2013
Concerning Bill 6650

I am a resident and voter in West Hartford, CT. I am part of the Inter-Religious Eco-Justice Network and the National Climate Ethics Campaign. As a person of faith, I care deeply about the health and wellbeing of all. I care deeply that we must do quickly what ever we can to help slow the climate crisis we face. Extreme weather is happening at a greater pace and with greater intensity than scientist had predicted. It is therefore important that we speed up efforts to reduce and conserve energy use.

Bill 6650 is just the kind of legislation we need. It provides a method of funding to ensure that about half CT residents who heat with oil will have access to the Home Energy Solutions programs.

People who heat with oil have the most expensive and most CO2 emissions sources of fuel. These residents need audits that will help them take measure to reduce their oil needs more than any other consumers. Switching to natural gas is expensive and for some not an option. Reducing their oil bills is a welcome option for those heating with oil.

Several faith communities throughout CT participate in a program called Cool Congregations. Part of this program involves getting members of their communities to have HES audits. Half of these faith communities would not be able to participate in this program which is part of their faith's work to reduce carbon footprints. This bill would ensure that people of faith can participate in something that is part of their spiritual practice.

I enthusiastically support Bill 6650.

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