



Testimony of Raquel Kennedy

Before the Commerce Committee

Bill No. 6650

AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.

Co-Chairmen Senator Lebeau, and Representative Perone and esteemed members of the Commerce Committee, I appreciate the opportunity afforded by your committee to be able to testify today .

My name is Raquel Kennedy representing Victory Energy Solutions and the Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut (HPACT). I am here speaking in support of Bill No. 6650, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Victory Energy Solutions and HPACT membership is representative of many of the Home Performance and Energy Management Contractors in Connecticut who have contracts with CL&P and United Illuminating to provide the Home Energy Solutions Program (HES) and Home Performance services such as home energy assessments, advanced air sealing, insulation, windows and HVAC replacement all within the context of Building Science and within the parameters of the Energy Efficiency Fund. Ratepayers' access core services through the Home Energy Solutions program valued at \$800 or more resulting in savings of \$200 and more each year for under \$100. Additional incentives and low cost financing are available for deeper retrofits. Through partner programs such as the Clean Energy

Communities, offered jointly by the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, and through the Neighbor 2 Neighbor Energy Challenge, communities successfully encourage support for energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy and drive HES program participation. This drives the need for us to hire more employees in our companies!!!!

That the Commerce Committee is hearing of Bill No. 6650 demonstrates your committee's understanding of the connection between energy efficiency and clean energy and their impact on business, jobs and the energy economy. Building a stronger energy efficiency infrastructure will help facilitate our ability to create new jobs and contribute to a growing Connecticut Green economy. The state of Connecticut spends millions of tax payer's dollars to entice businesses to come to Connecticut or remain in Connecticut. We hold here within this energy industry the ability to grow exponentially at a fraction of those expenditures. We must nurture this industry and give significant consideration to the policies made and their impact on small business development, employment and the tangential benefits to many spin off industries.

Oil Heated Homes

During last year's legislative session, HPACT successfully lobbied before the Energy and Technology Committee for a temporary fix for the heating oil customer's access to energy efficiency services and resulted in the ability of the Home Energy Solutions Program to service these homes. Without this temporary measure many oil heated homes would have been colder this winter with

significantly higher fuel costs. Our industry would have had significant staff layoffs due to diminished opportunities to air seal, insulate, install windows and replace HVAC equipment. If no mechanism to fund oil heated homes is agreed upon now, our industry faces employee layoffs as a result of a diminished opportunity and loss of revenue for HVAC contractors, insulators and window installers etc. as a result of an inability to promote rebates and low interest loan incentives to oil customers.

Please consider:

- The impact on job creation and economic development when the Home Energy Solutions program and home performance contractors can't equally service 60% of the homes in Connecticut that are heated with oil or propane or when these homeowners spend a disproportionate amount of their income to heat their homes and have little left to spend on everything else.
- Oil customers need access to rebates and financing as much as everyone else. We can't meet the State's goals of weatherizing 80% of homes by 2030 without assisting oil heated homes.
- That the establishment of a conservation fee on oil of 3.5 cents/gallon which would be just \$24.50 a year for an oil user using 700 gallons per year and spending \$2500 on oil.
- Our industry needs a stable commitment to all fuel sources in order to instill confidence in the consumer and drive business.

- Supporting oil customers supports the energy economy and job creation!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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