

Written Testimony of Mark Harris and Gina Crist, Good Life Energy Savers LLC,

Before the Connecticut Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

March 7, 2013

**Written Testimony Concerning Governor's Bill 6360 AN ACT CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY.**

We are the owners and operators of Good Life Energy Savers LLC, a building insulation contractor located in Danbury, CT. We employ 13 Connecticut residents and are residents of Connecticut ourselves. We thank the Committee for holding the public hearing and inviting our comments.

FOCUS ON BUILDING ENVELOPE UPGRADES

We are encouraged by the Governor's commitment to making Connecticut the most efficient state in the nation. We understand the reasons to include natural gas conversion as part of the state's energy strategy. Rather than relying primarily on fuel conversion, we feel strongly that the focus of the strategy should be on energy efficiency upgrades. Efficiency upgrades have a much more immediate impact and are imperative to reducing energy usage, regardless of the ultimate fuel source. Without proper building upgrades, significant levels of heating fuels of all types are simply wasted due to air infiltration and air leakage. We often find that a typical Connecticut home can have air leaks throughout the building envelope equivalent to having a large window open all year long!

According to the Department of Energy (DOE), 80% of homes built prior to 1980 have little or no insulation, and adding insulation is the number one way to become more energy efficient. Connecticut consumers and businesses are burdened with the second highest energy costs in the United States. Simple upgrades to the building envelope in the form of air sealing and insulation can result in immediate energy savings of 30-50%!

EXTEND AND ENHANCE INCENTIVES FOR ALL FUEL TYPES

In our experience, the most effective way to promote upgrades is with Connecticut's energy efficiency programs that offer low cost assessments, rebates and low interest financing for customers with all fuel types. We see a direct relationship between the number and magnitude of these upgrades to the level of rebates and low interest financing offered. When incentive programs are interrupted due to lack of funding, there is an immediate and dramatic reduction

in the number of consumers who are willing and able to invest in basic building upgrades that would produce significant reductions in energy usage.

Good Life Energy Savers highly recommends that the efficiency programs continue and are fully funded for customers with all fuel types. The extension of the program for heating oil customers past June 2013 is critical to our state's energy strategy. We suggest that a modest surcharge on fuel oil, such as the one implemented for gas and electric customers would create a way to contribute to the Energy Efficiency Fund. In order to provide a full range of options for heating oil customers and ensure assistance when they are ready to upgrade, it is imperative that the funding of this program continue.

ADVERTISE & EDUCATE

Our company dedicates substantial advertising dollars to educate Connecticut consumers on the importance of air sealing and insulation as well as the rebates and financing offered by our state programs. Still, we often find residents who are completely unaware of these energy efficiency incentives. Program enhancements and extensions should be coupled with marketing and outreach initiatives to educate residents on the importance of upgrades and the financial support Connecticut offers.

REQUIRE ENERGY USAGE DISCLOSURES

We support legislation that requires energy usage disclosure and benchmarking for commercial and residential buildings to make energy efficiency a quantifiable factor in real estate offerings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

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