

Written Testimony of Ruth Clancy, Member of the CT Chapter of the Sierra Club,
Before the Connecticut general Assembly Energy and Technology Committee February 28, 2013

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

I currently heat my home with oil and am looking for renewable energy alternatives in the future that will be more sustainable than natural gas, due to the environmental damage that can result from it's extraction (fracking), transport and burning. I would like to see the DEEP carry out an analysis of the costs to the environment and climate from natural gas operations, including the discharge of methane gas into the atmosphere in order to decide on it' safety. The DEEP and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy should also provide a full range of choices for reducing heating costs, including energy efficiency, geothermal heat pumps and air source heat pumps with solar photovoltaic connections.

When natural gas conversions are done, deep energy retrofits should be performed for those customers to avoid energy waste and unnecessary gas lines, and to create jobs and dollars for the local economy. Simply insulating attics, basement walls and air sealing without any further measures can save 30% of a home's energy use. In my own case the HES audit was beneficial even though I had performed some measures previously. I would like the \$500 rebate to use towards further energy efficiency measures that I cannot perform on my own. It is imperative that long term funding for the audits be available for oil as well as gas and electric heating customers, paid through a small fee on oil or electricity bills.

Connecticut has to follow the lead of other states in allowing virtual net metering. This would remove geographic barriers to siting renewable energy sources and turn brownfields, landfills and other non-productive land into assets. Large scale hydro and trash incineration should not be made Class 1 renewables. They would do nothing to help build local jobs and would be environmentally damaging. Other measures such as smart grids, energy storage techniques and small scale hydro are 21st century energy strategies and should all be factored into our energy plan.

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