

Written testimony of Susan Andrus Olson, March 7, 2013 for Bill 6360

Last September my husband and I took advantage of the \$75 energy audit available for those who heat with oil. Both our own 3200 sq ft home and our 800 sq ft rental property were inspected and winterized within the scope of the program. We were encouraged to pursue this offer through the Cool Congregations Campaign (IREJN) at our church.

After the audits, and based on the recommendations we received, we purchased solar shades (\$2,250 made in Andover, Mass) and contracted locally (Canton, CT) to install insulating foam to the foundation and sill of the rental property (\$1,470). We also installed a high efficiency wood burning insert (made in Canada) using an installer from Windsor, CT (approximately \$4,000).

We consider these purchases as investments. For example the wood burning insert will provide a heating alternative to oil as well as warmth during an extended power outage as in October 2011. We also consider them an investment as we are on track this year to save 1/3 of our previous year's fuel costs (\$800 saving).

At the same time, we consider that we are investing in our local economy. Solar shades or wood burning inserts of comparable quality in CT would be even better. We prefer to do business face to face.

Ninety percent of the energy we create at such great cost is lost, wasted. High quality, high capacity batteries, if they were developed, could help store energy for peak use. . If we were to capture by various means even 10% of what we now make, we could delay the need for additional energy infrastructure, create local jobs and secure a more sustainable future. Bill 6360 ambitiously aspires to set the State's energy trajectory for the next generation. I strongly support investment in efficient energy use as a central piece of that puzzle. Thank you for the opportunity to give comment on this far reaching plan.

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