



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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**RANKING MEMBER**  
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**MEMBER**  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Senator Duff, Representative Reed, Senator Chapin, Representative Hoydick and the members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony in favor of Senate Bill No. 134 AN ACT  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE AND INVESTMENT  
AUTHORITY.

During the final days of last year's legislative session, I was contacted by the owner of a solar panel installation business in Oxford. His subject line simply read: "Emergency". My constituent was worried that the legislature's main budget bill was removing money from a fund that kept his business afloat. That fund he was referring to was the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority Fund, which is funded by ratepayer dollars and is used to power solar programs around the state of Connecticut. With help from this fund, homeowners around the state can install solar power systems at net prices they can afford.

Thankfully, although my last-minute efforts to restore the funding cuts were unsuccessful, the Oxford business is still in operation. The fund was raided by 20 percent last fiscal year and by a whopping 80 percent in the current fiscal year. So many of my constituents have been shocked by rising electric bills in the past few months – by eliminating this fund we are removing an environmentally-friendly option for homeowners to reduce their bills while also hurting this and other small businesses.

If we want to see small businesses stay in business and if you want to support a clean environment and solar energy, then I urge you to support this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Rob Kane  
Deputy Minority Leader Pro Tempore