



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 4, 2014
Energy and Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Katie Dykes

Raised Senate Bill No. 357 – AAC ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING STANDARDS AND PRODUCT EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 357 – AAC ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING STANDARDS AND PRODUCT EFFICIENCY STANDARDS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) appreciates the committee's willingness to raise this bill and welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

Energy Efficient Building Standards

This proposal, which we strongly support, would enable municipalities in the state to require the same energy savings standards that the State requires for the construction or significant renovation of commercial buildings it funds as well as to require higher efficiency standards than those set in the State building code for residential construction.

Buildings consume about 40% of the energy used nationwide and are responsible for about 35% of GHG emissions. Recognizing this, as well as the \$8.1 B cost to Connecticut residents of providing all that energy, the State has established a higher standard for itself, by requiring any new buildings or major renovations supported by state funding to meet higher efficiency standards than those in the state-wide building code.

Currently the State is in the process of finalizing adoption of the 2009 IRC/IECC building code; however numerous states have already adopted the 2012 code which is 30% more energy efficient than the 2006 code which for now is the CT code. Unlike many jurisdictions, Connecticut has one statewide code which has many advantages including making training and enforcement easier; however given the advances in building technologies and the lag in adopting the most recent building codes, it also means that residents are often not getting the level of energy benefits that are easily available and which would be in their individual - and the public's - interest. The proposed bill would allow municipalities to add additional energy efficiency requirements to those already embraced in the statewide building code; i.e. the opt in concern would be made up of the State code plus the achievement of the specified HERS efficiency rating.

DEEP appreciates the concerns of those responsible for establishing and amending the State building code and wants to assure the committee that we will continue to work with the State Building Inspector and the Board of Codes and Standards to ensure that nothing in this proposal seeks to replace the applicability of the fundamental State Building Code to all construction in the state and DEEP assures the committee that we are ready to work through any of these issues with the Energy and Technology Committee and the Department of Administrative Services.

To date Massachusetts, California and Oregon have allowed municipalities to adopt a more energy efficient building code. In Massachusetts more than 130 of the state's 351 cities and towns have opted to adopt the stretch code which means that these communities are already using the 2012 IECC code and ASHRAE 2010. Since Massachusetts plans to adopt IECC 2012 effective for the entire state on July 1 of this year, they are currently revising their stretch code to incorporate the higher efficiency standards in IECC 2105 and AHRAE 2013.

The proposed bill uses the same framework as Massachusetts for setting the stretch building code standard for residential buildings - a Home Energy Rating or (HERS) score. They also use the ASHRAE 2013 standard for commercial buildings. To provide some perspective on what the 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015 IECC codes deliver in terms of energy savings I have attached a chart showing the relative HERS ratings of each, but in brief and on average, a home built in accordance with CT's existing code (IECC 2006) would have a HERS rating of 100; one built to meet the soon to be adopted CT code (IECC 2009) would have a HERS rating of 89 whereas the 2012 IECC would require a baseline score of 65 and the IECC 2015 a HERS rating of 55.

Given the wide adoption of LEED standards in new construction many of the larger commercial construction projects in the state already are being built to exceed current CT requirements. The proposed bill would lock in this trend by requiring commercial buildings to meet the standards the State establishes under section 16a-38k for any construction or major renovations that it funds. Taking this step at a time when commercial building is starting to rebound in the state would lock in significant savings going forward helping reduce the energy costs for those using these buildings for years to come. We would note that in Raised Senate Bill 357 DEEP is proposing to amend the proscriptive requirements in Section 16a-38k that are tied to being 21% better than ASHRAE standards to reflect the reality of dramatically improving standards that could make achieving a specific percent higher efficiency cost prohibitive. By using the Department of Energy's Target Finder instead technological advances will be automatically incorporated and reflected in achieving a 75 score thereby meeting a standard that continues the State's Leading By Example policy of being more energy efficient than the norm at any time.

Streamlining Compliance with Product Efficiency Standards

The proposed bill simplifies the process for certifying manufacturers as compliant with the State's Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards. The bill proposes to relieve manufacturers of the necessity to provide documentation to the commissioner when products are already certified with the California Energy Commission and requires the commissioner to publish on DEEP's website a list of compliant products. In addition, biannually, the Multi State Appliance Collaborative (MSAC) provides a list of products newly certified with the California Energy Commission. Providing public access to this information will clarify which products are compliant with Connecticut law. This provides a balanced way to efficiently manage information regarding consumer products' compliance with energy efficiency standards.

DEEP strongly supports Raised Senate Bill No. 357 – AAC ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING STANDARDS AND PRODUCT EFFICIENCY STANDARDS and looks forward to working with the committee on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or

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