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March 3, 2021

Members of the Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT

RE: SB 882

Dear Assembly Members,

I strongly support Senate Bill 882, the Governor's Climate Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability bill.

My name is Sara Holmes, I grew up in Connecticut, and I am now a licensed architect working and living in Chester with my husband and 7-year-old son. In both my personal and professional lives, I take steps to address our looming climate crisis.

Curbing the energy use from our buildings – which account for 40% of the energy used in our country – is a critical step in achieving our state's climate goals. Having energy ratings for building is an important tool for consumers to understand how much energy buildings use from several standpoints – it builds an awareness of energy consumption, it gives better performing buildings better value on the real estate market, and it incentivizes people to invest in better building stock and make energy efficient improvements to their homes.

Putting an energy rating on a building is just like a MPG rating on a car. It enables consumers to know what they're buying. Perhaps a family needs to know if they're going to have an expensive heating bill every winter.

A Freddie Mac study, "Energy Efficiency: Value Added to Properties & Loan Performance," ([https://sf.freddie.mac.com/content/\\_assets/resources/pdf/fact-sheet/energy\\_efficiency\\_white\\_paper.pdf](https://sf.freddie.mac.com/content/_assets/resources/pdf/fact-sheet/energy_efficiency_white_paper.pdf)) finds HERS-rated homes sell for more than comparable unrated homes, regardless if they have a poor rating. Real estate agents are concerned an energy score will hurt their business; this proves it will not.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you today. And thank you for the work you do on behalf of Connecticut's residents.

Sincerely,  
Sara Holmes AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Certified Passive House Designer