

# Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-356

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT GRANT

**Title:** PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

**Vote Date:** 3/9/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/4/2021

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Lopes, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Rep. Gresko, 121<sup>st</sup> District

Rep. Michel 146<sup>th</sup> District

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Energy efficiency remains a large issue within the state: nearly one third of all emissions come from housing and commercial buildings. The state has faced rising temperatures in recent years, increasing the need for more energy efficient means to heat, cool, and power buildings. Residents within the state also face high energy costs, making housing more expensive. This bill seeks to address these concerns by creating a housing energy retrofit program funded by building permit fees.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Stated.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

Henry Auer, PhD, Connecticut Energy Network- SUPPORTS – stating the bill advances environmental justice. The state has 1.4 million occupied housing units, but much of this stock is outdated and decades old. Currently, 18% of the state's emissions are from housing, and 14% come from commercial and industrial emissions. This bill works towards the emissions goals set by the Governor, as well as bring Connecticut in line with many other states who have already acted to retrofit their housing stock.

Emily Alexander, Climate Policy Advocate for the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters- **SUPPORTS** – stating that the bill is a positive step towards 100% zero-carbon electric by 2040 in the state. The bill also prioritizes environmental justice, as well as invests in the state's energy efficiency workforce.

Nicole Burger, Technical Consultant for MaGrann Associates- **SUPPORTS** – stating that housing is a core basic need. In the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is important to understand the intersection of health, housing, and energy policy. This bill seeks to address these concerns.

Ross Spiegel, Chair of CT Green Building Council- **SUPPORTS** – stating that Connecticut's low to moderate income housing stock is outdated and inefficient. The state has one of the highest rates of energy poverty in the country, and this bill addresses the inequality found in the current housing stock.

Samantha Dunham, State Director of the Sierra Club of Connecticut- **SUPPORTS** – stating that 6 of the past hottest years on record in the state have been since 2005. This bill not only addresses climate, but the health of residents.

The following **SUPPORT SB 356**, stating that the bill improves health outcomes, increases energy efficiency, and boosts the economy by creating jobs focused on renewable energy and sustainable housing:

Amy Ewing

Kenny Foscue

Michel Kvedar, State Affairs Coordinator of UConn's Undergraduate Government, Co-Director of the Sunrises Movement CT

Nicolas Pacella, Architect- **SUPPORTS** – stating that this bill presents health and savings benefits. Asbestos containing materials are still not fully banned, and current tube wiring is still commonplace in some buildings- these present significant barriers to retrofitting properties within the state. He believes that the bill should prioritize "detection, mitigation, and removal of these products."

Kyle Wallace, Senior Manager of Public Policy at Sunrun Inc.- **SUPPORTS** – stating the energy burden that many renters face is not affordable, this bill seeks to address these concerns.

The following **SUPPORT SB 356**, stating that the bill develops a comprehensive health-based approach to retrofitting existing housing stock, leading to greater health and energy efficiency outcomes for residents, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also gives greater support to low and middle-income residents of the state, increasing access to energy efficient options:

Michael Harris, CHEER Middletown

Jennifer G. Kleindienst, Chair of CHEER Middletown

Dr. Brian Amos

Kevin Banach

Brian Barlow

Steve Bayley

Diana Blair

Lynne Bonnett

Laura Bozzi, PhD, Director of Programs at the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health

Laura Cahn Chair of the New Haven Environmental Advisory Council

Dr. Adrian Charbin

Leticia Colon de Meijias, Policy Co-Chair for Efficiency for All

Ella Copeland

David Degling

Kimber Degling

Killian Dunham

E4 the Future

Terri Eickel, Chair of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Joseph Barnes, Secretary, IREJN

Lynn Johnson, Board Member, IREJN

Marc Naigles, Treasurer, IREJN

Leticia Naigles, Board Member, IREJN

Richard Walser, Board Member, IREJN

Michael Winterfield, Board Member, IREJN

Millie Legenhausen, Member, IREJN

Bishop Ian Douglas, Episcopal Church of CT

Bishop Laura Ahrens, Episcopal Church of CT

Rev. Virginia Army, St. John's Episcopal Church, Vernon, CT

Rev. Thomas Carr, American Baptist Churches of the USA, Windsor, CT

Lynn Fulkerson, Co-Founder, IREJN, Church of Christ Congregational, Goshen, CT

Rev Sara Krlha, Church of Christ Congregational, Goshen, CT

Rev. Sue Latourette, Congregational Church of North Stonington, CT

Rev. Chris Solimene, Avon Congregational Church, Avon CT

Melinda Tuhus, Unitarian Society of New Haven, Hamden, CT

Rev. Rachel Thomas, Episcopal Clergy, Deep River, CT

Dwayne Escola

Kelly Hall

Alanna Fagan

Aaron Goode

Royal Graves

Bettina Hall

Lois Happe

Sarah Middleer

Diane Keef

Margaret Kilgore

Sandra Kopell

Storm Kutcha

Timon Malloy

Benjamin Martin

Ron Nelson

Tawnie Olson

Dwayne David Paul- Director of the Collaborative Center for Justice

Jim Perras, CEO of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut

Laura Peskin

John Picard

Charles Polnitsky

John Sargent

Robb Sauerhoff

Rachel Lea Scott, MSW, Associate Director of the Collaborative Center for Justice

Claire Matthews

Angel Serrano, Organizer for CT Citizen Action Group

S Smith

Patricia Nizlek

Richard Stanley

Melinda Tuhus

Victoria Usher

Normandy Avery

Richard Walser

Brendan Watson, Executive Director of Operation Fuel

Tanya Wiedeking

Mary Woolsey

Dr. Barbara Zahm

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Stated.

**Reported by: Gabriel Turco**

**Date: 3/22/21**