



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5438
AAC ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING AND PROGRAMS
March 13, 2024

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Steinberg,
Distinguished Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5438 to appropriate \$145 million for energy efficiency through the Conservation Load Management Program.

As the costs of gas and oil continue to rise, energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to save consumers money and reduce energy demand.

The cheapest energy is the energy you don't use.

The main funding mechanism is an on-bill charge that has not increased since 2012, whereas construction costs have increased almost 50%. The goals for the program have also increased without any additional funding to weatherize 80% of residential units by 2030 or to address environmental inequities in the effort to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

The Fund has a history of being raided for other state budget purposes.

This has led to an unstable budget for energy efficiency programs which causes disruption in the workforce. These jobs should be a top priority to maintain because they have strong representation from disadvantaged communities and are important to meet our climate goals.

Energy efficiency includes reducing energy waste by using services like energy audits, air sealing, and insulation. EnergizeCT was able to save residents \$30.8 million in equivalent energy savings in 2022 by providing these services. These programs are estimated to provide \$2.35 in lifetime benefits for every \$1.00 spent.

High energy prices have driven demand for EnergizeCT's efficiency program to historic highs in 2023. Unfortunately, the demand for the program outpaced funding, and EnergizeCT had to stop taking new customers.

By contrast, Massachusetts funds their energy efficiency programs at twice the rate per capita compared to Connecticut. By passing HB 5438, our state can help replenish our funding. This will provide residents with cost effective options to reduce energy use and reduce their electric bills.

HB 5438 will study the effectiveness of these programs and determine whether the funding levels are adequate.

CTLCV urges the committee to support HB 5438 to help Connecticut get back on the path of cost-effective energy solutions. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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