



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF SB 356**
AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT GRANT PROGRAM FOR
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

March 3, 2021

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. McGee and Distinguished Members of the Housing Committee

From: Emily Alexander, Climate Policy Advocate, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 356** to establish an energy efficiency retrofit grant program for affordable housing.

As the state looks forward to achieving the stated goal of 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2040, we must make improvements in our most polluting sectors such as the Buildings sector. An energy efficiency retrofit program has many benefits including bringing equity to the forefront, public health, climate change mitigation, and economic development.

The retrofit program laid out in SB 356 would **prioritize environmental justice and distressed communities**. These communities are most at risk for air pollution causing lung and heart diseases, and often struggle with utility bills. SB 356 helps to bridge the equity gap that exists between high and low-income communities by allowing savings on utility bills and addressing public health concerns. These same communities often suffer the impacts of dirty fossil fuel plants and polluting facilities. It's time we invested in them instead of hurting them further.

Retrofitting residential units is **cost-saving, both immediate and long-term**. It provides immediate energy savings to residents and pays for itself in better health for occupants. Immediate retrofitting saves energy, helping us to meet the climate change goal of reducing energy use.

Retrofitting provides good, local jobs, contributing to the state's economy. According to a 2020 study by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, 2016 energy efficiency programs supported 34,000 clean energy jobs in Connecticut. **Investments in the energy efficiency workforce bring the highest return on investment of any green job - \$1 million or 18 job years.**

CTLCV strongly supports this proposal to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and ensure energy equity in affordable housing. We urge the committee to vote YES on SB 356.

CTLCV

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