



April 19 2016

Connecticut State Legislature
Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building, RM 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Revenue Proposal approved by the General Assembly's Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee on April 7, 2016

Dear Co- Chairman Senator Fonfara and Representative Berger and members of the Finance Committee:

The Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut is writing today to tell you of our concerns with the recently approved revenue proposal to raid approximately \$22 million in RGGI proceeds. The Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut, (HPACT) is an industry association comprised of contractors that perform home energy audits, install energy efficiency measures and perform diagnostic tests on homes to measure air loss and air quality. Some of our members also install insulation, replace heating equipment and seal ductwork.

The RGGI funds are a result of the state setting a cap on carbon emissions from power plants, with plants purchasing emission allowances at a quarterly auction. Proceeds are a reinvested in energy efficiency initiatives and renewable energy programs that help families and small businesses save money and reduce climate pollution emissions. The proposed cuts would slash funding for the services provided by our dedicated home performance contractors and to the newly established Green Bank, which leverages private investment in clean energy and for major residential programs under Energize CT.

The members of HPACT work directly with the [Energize CT](#) programs, particularly with the Home Energy Solutions program, which expects to serve approximately 20,000 customers in 2016, including low income. Without the RGGI funding for Home Energy Solutions, we anticipate some 9,050 single family homes in Connecticut would be unable to receive weatherization services, which helps homeowners save energy, save money and live more comfortably in energy efficient, healthy homes. Additionally, some 4,000 apartments and condominiums will not receive similar services. Lastly, the funding loss will cause the benefit cost ratio for this program to drop from \$1.52 to \$1.10

The impact of this funding raiding on our members' businesses would be:

1. Plan **layoffs** within the company, who employ CT residents.
2. Look to **shift** their resources to other states with more secure program funding, i.e. Massachusetts.
3. Halt **training** of energy technicians.

HPACT

Home Performance Alliance of Connecticut

4. Curtail any business **growth**, such as capital improvements, equipment or vehicle purchases.

These are very serious setbacks to the PA-1180 goal of weatherization 80% of the CT homes by 2030. It would be impossible to obtain this goal and would be a serious blow to creating jobs, lowering energy bills and fighting climate change. The work done in the Energize CT programs goes hand in hand with PA-1180 goals, electric and gas long term energy planning, job growth, health and environmental benefits and saving ratepayers money. The home performance contractors having been diligently working in CT to improve the services to residents, all while maintaining their commitment to PA-1180. All would be negatively impacted and the business community would need to uproot their CT resources and gravitate to a state with a dedicated commitment to an energy policy that supports these goals. If this occurs, there is no guarantee that the home performance industry in CT would recover as funding levels changed in the future.

Should you require any further information or have any questions at all, please let me know. HPACT is readily available to assist the Finance Committee with any further questions or clarifications. I can be reached at 860-916-3554 or via email, tlavoie@thereslink.com.

Attached please find important facts about Energize CT 2015 programs that you should consider before raiding the RGGI funds or other similar funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



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