



SAMPLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY/CLEAN ENERGY LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Instructions

1. Each publication has a different way to submit letters to the editor. The best place to start is on their website. If you have trouble finding how to submit a letter or have questions, email Melissa at mschlag@ctenvironment.org
2. Each letter should have fewer than 200 words and be submitted in your name. The publication will often call to confirm the letter is from you, so include your number (that will not be printed).
3. Publications will not print duplicate letters so you are safer to personalize any of these below or use the bullet points at the end of the letter section to write your own—this also makes your letter more powerful! Feel free to name your own state lawmakers as well.

Letter to the Editor 1 *[general and short]*

Over \$140 million was stolen by our legislators from the Energy Efficiency Fund, Connecticut Green Bank, and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative—all of which create jobs and tax revenue, eliminate the need for new power plants, improve health, and lower costs for ratepayers.

I call on all state legislators to fix this attack on the air my family and I breathe every day.

Our legislators must ensure cleaner air, lower bills, economic growth, and make sure that these funds are never raided again.

Your name

Address

Phone number

Letter to the Editor 2 *[general and lawsuit]*

The recent loss of the federal lawsuit against the energy efficiency and clean energy fund raids [insert headline and date of article] proves how difficult it is to stop lawmakers from stealing and spending millions of dollars earmarked for specific purposes on anything they want.

Last year legislators destroyed more than 3,000 jobs in Connecticut and energy efficiency projects across the state have been halted as a result.

But our lawmakers work for us, and have to listen to us. They must ensure cleaner air, lower bills, economic growth, and that these funds are never raided again.

Your name

Address

Phone number

Letter to the Editor 3 *[service focused and saving money for families]*

Last year the Connecticut legislature took money I pay each month on my electric bills—money that is supposed to go to energy efficiency and clean energy services—and used it to plug unrelated budget holes instead.

I gladly paid for these programs like home energy audits, insulation, and efficient lighting that were saving money for my family and others around the state. It's unconscionable these services were stripped from us by our very own legislators that are supposed to serve our best interests.

I call on our public servants to do just that. Serve the public by standing up for clean air, a thriving green economy, and savings for families across the state.

Your name

Address

Phone number

Letter to the Editor 4 *[business, economy focused]*

The legislature caused layoffs and business closures at a time Connecticut is trying to recover from the recession. Not smart.

Energy efficiency businesses across the state have had to lay off workers because the legislature stole over \$140 million from the Energy Efficiency Fund, Connecticut Green Bank, and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. These businesses helped with programs that provided home energy audits, insulation, and efficient lighting that was saving money for families around the state as well as providing much-needed good paying jobs.

State legislators can fix this by replenishing the funds and protecting them next year when it's time to build a new state budget.

Your name

Address

Phone number

Letter to the Editor 5 *[detail losses]*

Did you know that over \$140 million was stolen from you by your legislators last year? This energy efficiency and clean energy funding creates economic growth, eliminates the need for new power plants, improves health, and lowers costs for ratepayers.

Want to know what else we are projected to lose?

- LOST: 6,885 jobs over two years.
- LOST: \$1 BILLION in economic activity and \$21.9 million in state tax revenue in Connecticut.
- LOST: Up to 12,900 families in 2018 alone may not be able to receive energy assessments, weatherization upgrades, and reduced pricing on insulation, and the associated energy bill savings.
- LOST: 5,600 of low income households will not receive financial assistance to close the energy affordability gap.

- LOST: \$31 million per year in energy efficiency upgrades for Connecticut businesses and industries.

I demand the legislature fully replenish these funds to curtail both short- and long-term economic damage and signal commitment to Connecticut's clean energy businesses, climate commitments, public health, and citizens' wallets.

Your name

Address

Phone number

Additional Raids Bullet Points you can draw on:

- Last year the Connecticut legislature took money we all pay each month on our electric bills—money that is supposed to go to energy efficiency and clean energy services—and used it to plug unrelated budget holes instead. It's an illegal tax.
- If you have used Eversource or UI programs to get affordable efficiency and clean energy services—or if you haven't yet but want to—you can mention that to help make it relatable.
- Now programs like home energy audits, insulation, and efficient lighting that should be saving money for families are running out of funding. And energy efficiency businesses across the state have had to lay off workers.
- State legislators can fix this by replenishing the funds, and protecting them next year when it's time to build a new state budget.
- I want my legislators and the candidates running in my district [*you can name them if you want*] to know that I care about this and will be listening to what they say about the energy efficiency and clean energy funds.

The theft of these funds is already affecting our environment and has led to layoffs at small energy efficiency businesses. If not reversed, the losses for the environment, Connecticut residents, and businesses could be huge:

- LOST: 6,885 jobs over the next two years. (*According to a 2017 U.S. Department of Energy report, Connecticut's efficiency programs have generated close to 34,000 jobs so far.*)
- LOST: \$1 BILLION in economic activity and \$21.9 million in state tax revenue in Connecticut.
- LOST: Up to 12,900 families in 2018 alone may not be able to receive energy assessments, weatherization upgrades, and reduced pricing on insulation, and the associated energy bill savings.
- LOST: Energy efficiency programs for low income residents, small businesses, and businesses owned by people of color. (*These groups often pay the highest percentage of their income to energy bills.*) 5,600 of low income households will not receive financial assistance to close the energy affordability gap.
- LOST: \$31 million per year in energy efficiency upgrades for Connecticut businesses and industries that generate millions in energy cost savings.
- LOST: Contracts worth an estimated \$126 million, plus \$252 million in private capital from customer investments leveraged from those contracts.
- LOST: 53% reduction in the Green Bank's budget, layoffs, and cancelled transactions.

Fully replenishing these funds can curtail both short- and long-term economic damage and signal commitment to Connecticut's clean energy businesses, climate commitments, public health, and citizens' wallets.