

Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore, State Senate
Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader
Len Fasano, Senate Minority Leader
Joseph Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House
Matt Ritter, House Majority Leader
Themis Klarides, Minority Leader, State House
Norman Needleman, Energy and Technology Committee Chairman
David Arconti, Energy and Technology Committee Chairman
John Fonfara, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Chairman
Jason Rojas, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Chairman

February 25, 2019

Dear Honorable Leaders of Connecticut,

A year and a half ago, amidst a difficult budget situation, Connecticut lawmakers diverted \$165 million in ratepayer funds collected on residents', businesses', and nonprofits' electric and gas bills from the Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy funds to plug a hole in the budget.

This decision resulted in lost jobs, business uncertainty, missed opportunities to reduce bills for working families, lost opportunities to lower carbon emissions, air and water pollution, and diminished trust in state leaders.

Today the undersigned organizations, businesses, and individuals ask you to reverse that damage and keep your promises to all Connecticut electric and gas ratepayers by taking action this legislative session to restore and protect Connecticut's ratepayer-supported Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Funds (Conservation and Load Management charge and Renewable Energy Investment fund) which support programs to help residents lower their energy burdens and access clean energy resources.

There are several opportunities for our leaders to take action. HB 5030, HB 5409, HB 5804, HB 6453, HJ 31, and HJ 53 all provide pathways to a fix, as could HB 5002 ("Green New Deal") and the Energy & Technology Committee concept "AAC Energy Efficiency Charges" raised on February 14. We thank the legislators who have put them forward.

Programs supported by the Conservation & Load Management funds (C&LM), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and Green Bank are some of Connecticut's most powerful tools to combat the damage of climate change, save ratepayers money on electricity and heating bills, reduce air pollution, protect health, lower energy costs, and create jobs in the state's growing clean energy industry. Direct-service energy efficiency delivers a 1-to-7 return on investment.

Fully replenishing these funds and ensuring all residents, regardless of their fuel type, can access their benefits will curtail both short- and long-term economic damage and signal your commitment to Connecticut's efficiency and clean energy businesses, climate commitments, public health, and citizens' wallets.

When the funds were diverted in 2017, experts including the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board predicted severe losses to Connecticut residents and our green economy. They forecast:

- Loss of **6,885 jobs** over two years.
- Loss of **\$1 BILLION in economic activity and \$21.9 million in state tax revenue.**
- 13,000 homes—including **5,600 low income households**—missing out on energy assessments, weatherization upgrades, and discounted insulation, and \$275 million in associated energy bill savings.
- 1.6 million additional gallons of oil being burned annually, adding to our air pollution.
- Cancellation of efficiency projects worth over \$30 million annually in 2018 and 2019.
- Connecticut businesses and industries missing out on \$31 million per year in energy efficiency upgrades that generate millions in energy cost savings.

While the actual impacts are still being calculated, we know that small businesses have indeed had to let employees go. Business have closed; some have left the state. We know that people have lost their homes. Electric utilities have cautioned about depleted funding and turning people away from programs. 380,000 households can't afford their energy burdens in our state, but businesses have had to deny access to proven, successful energy efficiency programs for low income households, small businesses, and minority-owned businesses—the groups that often pay the highest percentage of their income to energy bills. Business leaders are anxious about the future and without stability and dedication to the state's energy efficiency and clean energy goals these businesses can't expand and create new green jobs in Connecticut. That's not the future we want.

Connecticut's Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy funds have been engines of prosperity, health, and economic growth, and they can be again.

Please act this session to restore the funds and ensure they're never raided again. Be the heroes that save the future of Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

350 CT
Susan Miller
Steering committee member

BantamWesson
William Wesson
Vice President

Best Home Performance
Lloyd Munroe
Manager

Center for Latino Progress
Yanil Terón
Executive Director

CHEER Middletown

Jennifer Kleindienst
Organizer

Citizens Campaign for the Environment**Louis W. Burch**

Connecticut Program Director

Clean Water Action

Anne Hulick
Connecticut Director

Connecticut Citizen's Action Group

Tom Swan
Executive Director

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Claire Coleman
Climate and energy attorney

Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

John Humphries
Executive Director

Noah Cross

Energy efficiency employee working in CT

CT Energy Efficiency Fund

Joel N. Gordes
Former Technical Coordinator/Formal Board Member

CT League of Conservation Voters

Lori Brown
Executive Director

Eastern CT Green Energy

Peter Millman
Director

Energy Efficiencies Solutions

Rebecca Baez-Castro
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Energy Solutions, LLC

Robert Auer
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Enviro Energy Connections

Henry Link, PE
Founder

George Penniman Architects LLC

George Penniman
Principal

Great Books 4 Kids Inc.

Nya Parkes
Art Director

Green Eco Warriors

Leticia Colon de Mejias
President

HE-Energy Solutions LLC

Vivian Perez
member/owner

Home Energy Technologies LLC

Peter Harding, CPHC CGR
President

Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Terri Eickel
Organizer

Middletown Clean Energy Task Force

Jennifer Kleindienst
Chair

People's Action for Clean Energy

Mark Scully
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The Nature Conservancy

David Sutherland
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New England Conservation Services

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Stephanie Weiner
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Program Director

New Haven Leon SCP

Chris Schweitzer
Program Director

Sierra Club Connecticut

Samantha Dynowski
State Director

SolarConnecticut

Mike Trahan
Executive Director

The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

Jerry Silbert, M.D.
Executive Director

CC:

Governor Ned Lamont
Commissioner Katie Dykes, DEEP
Members of the General Assembly