

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-295

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING TAX CREDITS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOMES.

Vote Date: 3/15/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will incentivize the creation of more energy efficient homes by providing a state income tax credit for purchasers of newly constructed energy efficient homes. By ensuring that newly built buildings are energy efficient it will reduce CT's greenhouse gas emissions.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Jim Perras, CEO – Home Builders and Remodelers Association](#) **Supports** - stating that this legislation correctly incentivizes the creation of energy efficient homes rather than just adding expensive mandates. This legislation will create new jobs by incentivizing the creation of new energy efficient homes and will add to the overall economy of CT.

[Werner Oyanadel, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity](#), **Supports** - stating that they support "a broad range of strategies that could help Connecticut increase access to affordable, energy efficient homeownership opportunities to all families seeking housing in our state, particularly people of color or people of modest means who are looking to purchase a home."

[Connecticut Realtors](#), **Supports** – stating that they see "this action as the preferred approach in creating energy-efficient homes and supports the legislation."

[Susan Eastwood](#), Chair – Ashford Clean Energy Task Force **Supports** - stating that this legislation would incentivize newly built homes to be energy efficient.

[Jennifer Rose Gottlieb Elazhari](#), **Supports** - stating that CT must do all that we can to reduce carbon emissions and that putting fossil fuel-based systems into new building is unacceptable.

[Lynn and John Fulkerson](#), **Supports** - stating that they have personally seen the benefits of an energy efficient home and support legislation that will make it easier for more families to build energy efficient homes.

[Aaron Goode](#), **Supports** - stating that fossil fuel combustion inside our homes creates harmful air pollution that leads to premature deaths and increased medical costs. Children living in homes with gas stoves are more likely to develop asthma and the same goes for heating systems. They support legislation that moves us towards cleaner electric heating systems.

[Janet Hoopet](#), **Supports** - stating that we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and that this legislation moves us forward on that goal.

[Alison Sanchinico](#), **Supports** - stating that "The science speaks for itself regarding climate change. We must act now."

[Peter Schweinfurth](#) – Chair – Energy Management Advisory Board for the Town of Greenwich, **Supports** - stating that they have been working with the town of Greenwich to improve energy efficiency in their town, and that the impact of this legislation would dramatically improve their efforts to increase energy efficiency.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Francis Pickering](#) – Executive Director – WestCOG, **Opposes** - stating that tax credits for home buying should be "instant rebates" instead of as income tax credits, as that would reduce the closing cost of the home and would provide a stronger incentive to homebuyers. They also suggested that CT focus on promoting "Energy-Efficient Mortgages (EEM)" as an effective way to promote energy efficient homes.

Reported by: William Cromwell

Date: 3/17/2022