

## House Republican Press Release

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### REP. FREY APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF STATE ENERGY PLAN



HARTFORD – State Representative John Frey of Ridgefield along with the House of Representatives today approved sweeping compromises to energy legislation that have been caught in a year-long legislative logjam and will provide consumer relief through efficiencies and conservation and changes in electrical generation.

“Ridgefield residents and businesses are pleading with the state for energy assistance from the mounting costs of electricity and fuel. Legislators must act now to mitigate the pain citizens are feeling. This proposal offers consumers relief just as the summer months begin,” said Rep. Frey.

The comprehensive energy proposal addresses rising consumer costs and offers energy alternatives to deal with the negative ripple effects of industry deregulation.

The key points of the bill are:

#### **Conservation:**

- Restore previously raided conservation funds;
- Offer an air conditioner/ furnace replacement program;
- Expand “Green Buildings” program for state projects.

#### **Generation:**

- Require planning to determine current and future generation needs;
- Increase required renewable portfolio standards for clean energy and expand Class III renewable credits;
- Require municipal utilities to promote renewable energy.

#### **Energy Taxes:**

- Make permanent tax exemptions for weatherization products as well compact fluorescent lights
- Create property and sales tax exemptions for hybrid vehicles and those with 40 mpg ratings.

“The energy problem in Connecticut is complex, and the solutions are not simple. Legislators on both sides of the aisle have cooperated and helped craft long-range, viable strategies so the state can remain competitive in today’s global economy,” concluded Rep. Frey.

Issues, such as a plan to eliminate the state gasoline tax of 25 cents per gallon and a cap on the gross receipts tax on oil companies are still being considered as part of the overall budget negotiations.