



**Interreligious Eco-Justice Network**  
8 Doolittle Road  
Preston, CT 06365



[www.irejn.org](http://www.irejn.org)  
[info@irejn.org](mailto:info@irejn.org)



860.595-2321

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Officers**

Rev. Edward Horstmann  
*Chair*  
Peter Festa  
*Vice-Chair*  
Millie Legenhausen  
*Treasurer*

### **Directors at Large**

Rev. Nancy Leckerling  
Letitia Naigles, PhD  
Father Bob Washabaugh

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

A. Karim Ahmed, PhD  
Leticia Colon de Mejias  
Rev. Thomas Carr  
Father Sam Fuller, OFM Cap  
Lynn Fulkerson  
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman  
Anne Hulick  
Aida Mansoor  
Deacon Arthur Miller  
Bernard Pelletier  
Merle Potchinsky  
Alex Rodriguez  
Peterson Toscano

## **STAFF**

**Director**  
Terri Eickel

## **SB 6925 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Connecticut Home Energy Label and a Training Program for Energy Efficiency Auditors**

Dear Senator Needleman, Representative Steinberg, Sen Fazio, Representative Marra, Representative Sanchez, Senator Maroney, and esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 6926, An Act Concerning the Establishment of Connecticut Home Energy Label and a Training Program for Energy Efficiency Auditors.

The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network is a faith-based environmental organization that works with religious communities across Connecticut on environmental issues, such as climate change, toxic pollution, and species loss. Hundreds of congregations in Connecticut have implemented a variety of protocols to reduce their energy use and their greenhouse gas emissions, and to increase their use of clean energy.

Houses of worship are on the frontlines when it comes to addressing needs in their communities. Many people who are struggling turn to religious communities for assistance, including assistance with their utility bills. In CT, the energy burden for low-income is three times what it is for wealthy people. Energy burden is defined as the amount of income needed relative to energy costs. Not surprisingly, low-income residents tend to live in housing that is poorer in quality and less energy efficient. To assist these people, IREJN has been working to help houses of worship run home weatherization campaigns to assist their members in improving energy efficiency.

IREJN supports a Home Energy Label because it would create transparency for renter and buyers when entering into an agreement for new housing, whether rented or purchased. It is not uncommon to move in the summer, only to find out in the winter that the new home is

lacking sufficient insulation, leading to astronomical heating bills. A CT Home Energy Label would encourage sellers and landlords to take advantage of the excellent energy efficiency programs available in Connecticut. In addition, investing in training for auditors will help support the workforce for energy efficiency, which is currently at 34,000 employees. IREJN is supportive of the efforts to bolster the energy efficiency sector, which creates good-paying local jobs in Connecticut.

IREJN applauds the Energy and Technology Committee for recognizing the critical role that energy efficiency plays in reducing energy costs, and improving housing, quality of life, and health outcomes. The cheapest and greenest energy is the energy we aren't using and IREJN is supportive of any measure that will promote and expand these excellent programs.

We urge you to vote to pass HB 6926, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a CT Home Energy Label and a Training Program for Energy Efficiency Auditors. .

Very best regards,

Terri Eickel, Executive Director