



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ELISSA T. WRIGHT
FORTY-FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4050
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (860) 536-1813
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
E-MAIL: Ellisa.Wright@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE ELISSA WRIGHT *Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing – March 7, 2008*

**Re: RAISED BILL 5787, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC,
ENERGY AND CLIMATE SECURITY.**

Senator Fonfara, Representative Fontana and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Raised Bill 5787, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Economic Energy and Climate Security*.

Over the past year, momentum has been gathering on the need for bold action to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases to very low levels. A concerted and coordinated emphasis on clean energy solutions, renewable energy investment, and energy conservation management under this bill will continue and accelerate that momentum in Connecticut.

To date, Connecticut and other New England states have made important progress to address the effects of global warming, but last year's Fourth Assessment Report of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made the urgency of the challenge very clear. The report demonstrates the real threats to both our present and our future and impresses on us that workable solutions not only are at hand but must be undertaken.

Rising concerns about the security of fuel supply and the need to reduce our dependence on oil are key factors driving the growth of green energy solutions. There can be no greater economic stimulus than developing and deploying renewable energy technologies on a grand scale. The potential for substantial economic benefit to Connecticut residents, including job creation, from strong governmental partnerships with business and industry to stimulate green energy solutions for our mutual benefit is tremendous.

For example, in our state we have a solid foundation in the growth of the fuel cell industry. That industry is awaiting a technological breakthrough that will enhance product offerings at competitive price levels and transition the industry from the product development stage to a commercial stage and widespread application. Fuel cell and other emerging alternative energy systems require

continued and dedicated efforts in research, improved manufacturing processes, and augmented capabilities to move forward to market success. The investment in a clean energy future that this legislation provides can facilitate that evolution.

This bill makes a bold statement that it is worth modeling a green economy; that our priority will be to build on Connecticut's history of groundbreaking climate change legislation and accelerate reduction of our carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions for reasons of our environmental, public health and economic security.

Thank you for raising this bill and for your consideration of this matter.