



## CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

---

To: Energy and Technology Committee

From: Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering  
Richard H. Strauss, Executive Director

Date: March 11, 2009

REF: House Bill #6633 – *An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering Regarding Consolidation of Energy Programs and a Secretary of Energy* — Follow-up to oral and written testimony from Public Hearing of March 10, 2009

The following comments are offered for the committee's consideration as additional concepts/provisions to include in the proposed referenced bill.

1. **Section to be determined:** All energy related regulatory matters of the DPUC, Siting Council and any other agencies shall remain independent. However, the practices and rules of agencies with regulatory responsibilities should evolve to be supportive of and take into consideration the state's long-term energy plans and goals. Existing rules and regulatory practices shall be given time to work in an effort to assure stability in energy markets, with changes being made only with due consideration of all factors.
2. **Section to be determined (perhaps as Section 5(c)):** Funding for all energy-related programs from the state and federal government, and from ratepayer charges shall be provided through the Energy Office. Programmatic funding decisions shall be made in the context of addressing the priorities and goals of the state's comprehensive energy plan, which plan shall be developed by the secretary in consultation with the Coordinating Council.
3. **Section to be determined (perhaps as Section 5(d)):** Program funding provided through ratepayer charges must be used to support such programs and shall not be diverted to offset state deficits or for any other purposes.

**Cost of Implementation:** Additionally, with regard to the question on the cost of implementation of the proposed legislation, the discussion during our oral testimony identified a cost of \$500,000 or less. This estimate includes costs related to any new positions that would need to be added, such as the Secretary of Energy, in addition to staff that would be transferred to the new Energy Office from the OPM Energy Management Unit, as well as possibly some other expenses to support initial activities and responsibilities of the Secretary and Energy Office. Also, any funding budgeted to support the CEAB and the Governor Steering Committee on Climate Change would be transferred to the Energy Office as the Coordinating Council under this plan would assume responsibilities of these groups. Please note that in addition to establishing the new energy leadership structure, the proposed legislation also calls for the Clean Energy Fund to assume new responsibilities for the proposed Clean Energy Technology Center. Some of the goals of the Center may be able to be assumed by existing staff of the CCEF, while others may require additional support. Also, it is expected that the proposed expanded RD&D funding would be provided through allocation of or additional ratepayer funding or funding through an expansion of the already existing Clean Tech Fund that was announced in the Fall 2008.