



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

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**Testimony of Kevin R. Hennessy  
Staff Attorney  
The Connecticut Business & Industry Association  
Before the Commerce and Energy & Technology Committees  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT  
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My name is Kevin Hennessy. I am a staff attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (hereinafter "CBIA"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **SBs 1129 and 1130**, both *Acts Concerning Energy and the State's Economy*.

CBIA is pleased to support the intent of both **SBs 1129 and 1130**, *Acts Concerning Energy and the State's Economy*. **SBs 1129 and 1130** highlight two energy issues that Connecticut can control: 1) our demand; and 2) increasing our renewable sources.

Connecticut can not control the cost of oil or gas. We do, however, have control over our demand. Specifically, Connecticut consumers can control our peak demand. Peak demand occurs when consumers use the most energy. Traditionally, the hot, humid days of summer are Connecticut's highest peak days. Experts maintain that peak demand accounts for 20% of Connecticut's annual electricity costs.

The Connecticut electric efficiency partner program (hereinafter "the Program") is a coordinated effort that utilizes various technologies to reduce our peak demand. It appears that the ideal Connecticut electric efficiency partner (hereinafter "Partner") is a commercial or industrial company that can maximize demand-side management technologies.

The Partners will benefit directly, but every Connecticut consumer will benefit indirectly. The Partners' electric bills will decrease with their efficient use and lower demand. Every consumer will benefit because Connecticut's overall peak demand will be reduced which will reduce the most expensive electricity for everyone.



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The Program also creates an Energy Innovation Council (hereinafter “the Council”) to expedite the commercialization and impact of enhanced energy management technologies. The Council will oversee the applicants and Partners in the Program and analyze each project on an individual basis. This additional oversight will benefit all Connecticut ratepayers.

The other important piece in the proposed bills is the potential to increase the amount of Class I renewable generation in Connecticut. This will increase the supply of Class I renewable power in Connecticut which should help reduce the cost. Additionally, the new renewable generation encourages economic growth and job creation in Connecticut via increased manufacturing, installation and maintenance.

Reducing the peak demand and increasing the amount of Class I renewable generation in Connecticut is good for businesses and residents alike. CBIA thanks the committees for raising these important bills and encourages their passage.