



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

Anthony J. Palermino
Commissioner

THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 589: AAC REDEFINING CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

February 17, 2009

TESTIMONY OF COMMISSIONER ANTHONY PALERMINO

The Department of Public Utility Control (Department) would like to comment on Senate Bill No. 589. Senate Bill No. 589 alters the definition of Class I Renewable Energy Sources to include energy derived from the combustion or gasification of biosludge or biosolids. While the Department generally supports the inclusion of resources that have potential in Connecticut to help attain the State's RPS goals, it would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining stability in the statutory language regarding the definitions of renewable energy sources in Connecticut. The definitional language on biomass was initially passed in 1998 as part of the State's Electric Restructuring Act. It has since been amended in 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008. This constant change in language has the potential to limit investment in and development of new renewable generation, especially in a down market.

Moreover, the Department is hesitant to support the promotion of one particular resource to the exclusions of other potential resources at this time. The Department strongly recommends that the General Assembly consider empanelling a working group to study and evaluate the potential for and existing renewable schematic in Connecticut before changing once again the rules on renewable energy sources.

The Department appreciates this opportunity to testify and urges the Committee to refrain from further refinements to the renewable definitions so that developers and the renewable energy marketplace can see some stability.