

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No.1074

AN ACT CONCERNING TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 1074 An Act Concerning Test Bed Technologies.

As you are well aware, the combination of volatile energy markets at the same time we are faced with state revenue shortfalls, has made it all the more important for state agencies to take all available steps to curtail energy use and reduce energy costs while maintaining state services. Passage of this bill will enable state government to deploy "test bed" energy technologies, on a pilot basis at specific state facilities in order to study their effectiveness and applicability across state facilities. The focus of this process will be to determine which technologies can be cost efficient in reducing energy consumption, green house gas emissions and/or dependence on fossil fuels.

Under the existing contract processes there is really no effective mechanism for a State agency to purchase single items where only one company may create the unique product. The lack of clear authority and an administrative process makes it difficult for the Office of Policy and Management to deploy and test innovative and one-of-a-kind products that are designed to produce energy savings and efficiencies. As a result, opportunities for potential energy efficiencies in state facilities are lost.

This bill will provide my staff and all state agencies with an additional tool for reducing energy consumption and operational costs at state facilities, reducing dependence on foreign supplies of fossil fuels and addressing the need to reduce green house gas emissions. The bill does not seek to circumvent state contracting protocols, but rather seeks to give clear authority to deploy and assess technologies on a case-by-case basis in order to first evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the technology in a state facility. Given the tightness of fiscal resources available to agencies to undertake conservation and efficiency measures, it is only prudent that we first assess the effectiveness of new technologies before committing resources to a wide-spread utilization program. I urge passage of this bill.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support this bill.