



**CONNECTICUT
CLEAN ENERGY FUND**

**Statement of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Regarding Raised Senate Bill
1134 An Act Creating the Energy Independence Strategy Board**

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) strongly supports Raised Senate Bill 1134 and its intent of enhancing Connecticut's energy independence and related economic development by both helping position the State for competitive applications and for spending strategically the money available to Connecticut from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The CCEF recognizes that there is an immediate opportunity for Connecticut to leverage federal dollars to support and encourage advanced energy technologies, including renewable and energy efficiency opportunities, to further Connecticut's economic development and clean energy missions. Additionally, the ARRA presents opportunities for Connecticut to leverage federal dollars through collaboration with businesses, academic institutions, and non-profits alike.

The CCEF believes there is no time to waste in thinking strategically about how to facilitate the collaborations necessary for both the academic and business sectors to be well-positioned to apply for competitive grant opportunities. For the purpose of jump-starting this process, the CCEF and Connecticut Innovations (CI) are co-sponsoring an Economic Stimulus Forum focused on the ARRA and targeted at Connecticut businesses and educational institutions. The Forum will be held the afternoon of April 7, 2009, in conjunction with the 2009 Connecticut Innovations Annual Technology Celebration.

On a technical note, the Bill expressly references "energy efficiency opportunities" but does not reference renewable energy. Because there is competitive funding available in many areas that contribute to energy independence, such as smart grids and advanced battery research, the CCEF suggests the following:

in line 22 between "efficiency" and "opportunities", the Committee add "renewable energy and all other advanced energy".

We believe that the window of opportunity to apply for the competitive federal grants under the Economic Stimulus Plan is short—most likely within the next six months. Connecticut has been in the forefront of states with its commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as emerging technologies. The ARRA offers opportunities for Connecticut to leverage its organizational strength by helping the technology and energy communities access federal dollars during this time of extreme state budget constraints. We would urge the legislature to establish the Strategy Board as quickly as possible. We look forward to serving on the Board and working with the legislature in any other ways to advance this effort.