SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Connecticut Chapter
645 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
www.connecticut.sierraclub.org

Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Energy and Technology Committee
February 22, 2010

Testimony In Favor of
SB 181 AC Redefining Class I Renewable Energy Sources
HB5217 AAC Energy Efficient Products
HB 5213 AAC The Siting Council

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter. I am a director of the statewide Rivers Alliance. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

5217

HB5217 sets energy efficiency standards for electronic products including audio components and TVs. This legislation is necessary to ensure that OPM in the future will adopt standards for new products on an ongoing basis without the necessity of legislative action on each one. This bill enhances appliance standards passed in 2004 and 2007.

Because Connecticut participates in the Multi-State Appliance Standards Collaborative, it is not necessary for us to allocate resources to develop standards for individual products. In addition, we have available the California State Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards.

A robust market for these efficient products has developed, with many current models meeting Energy Star standards.

Clearly, these additional standards will save consumers money, reduce energy demands, and reduce global warming emissions. The cost to manufacturers to implement them is minor, with payback periods to consumers estimated at less than one year. Sierra strongly encourages adoption.

181

SB 181 broadens the definition of Class I Renewable power to include power from improvements at hydropower plants of up to 10 MW. Sierra recommends passage of this bill because, and only because, it requires Low Impact Hydropower Institute standards. LIHI standards are the primary means of assuring minimal adverse environmental impact of hydropower. However, we see no need for the 10MW limitation, as long as LIHI standards are required.

5213

HB 5213 enhances the ability of the Siting Council to establish a true and reliable record by granting it the power to impose civil penalties for mis-representation by an applicant, certificate holder or petitioner. It also provides for attorney's fees and costs for an aggrieved party to a proceeding. Sierra believes this authority will improve the process by providing a significant incentive for applicants to state their case before the Council honestly and completely.