

Testimony of Paul Corey of BNE Energy
Before the Energy and Technology Committee
Of the Connecticut General Assembly
Thursday, March 4, 2010
In Support of HB 5362 AAC Renewable Energy

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos and Representative Williams, my name is Paul Corey and I am the Chairman of BNE Energy Inc. I am here today to testify in **support** of Section 10 of Raised House Bill 5362, An Act Concerning Renewable Energy. This language would authorize a Round 4 of Project 150 for an additional 45 megawatts to address project attrition.

BNE Energy is a wind energy development company based in West Hartford. The wind energy industry is in an era of substantial growth worldwide led by the United States where it has increased by more than 25% per year since 2000, and by 39% over the last five years. Wind generation now accounts for more than 2% of the nation's electricity supply with more than 35,000 MW installed nationally making the U.S. number 1 worldwide in terms of installed capacity. As you know, currently Connecticut is the only state in New England that does not have commercial wind in operations. BNE is working to change that. We are developing the first two commercial wind projects in the state located in the towns of Prospect and Colebrook with a targeted capacity of 10 MW each. Both projects are being funded in part by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund through their Pre-Development Program. We have been measuring wind for more than a year and have over fourteen (14) months of site specific wind data. We are currently performing the environmental and engineering studies in preparation for the applications to the Siting Council which are expected to be filed in several months. The projects will add wind to the state's resource mix and help meet its goal of 20% of power from Class I renewable sources by 2020.

Project 150 is a vital program to encourage the development of Class I projects in the state. It provides a long-term contract on terms that make these wind projects and other renewable sources viable. Project 150 supports the development of Class I renewable projects in Connecticut, helping the state meet its Renewable Portfolio Standards from in-state sources rather than relying on imports or penalties. BNE's wind projects will result in a significant investment in renewable technology, create green jobs in the state, and become one of the largest taxpayers in the towns benefiting the local communities.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today.