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Connecticut Business & Industry Association

Testimony of Kevin R. Hennessy
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Before the Energy & Technology Committee
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My name is Kevin Hennessy. I am a staff attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (hereinafter "CBIA"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the following bills:

- **HB 5465** *AAC The Development of Green Jobs; and*
- **HB 5466** *AAC Climate Change*

HB 5465 *AAC The Development of Green Jobs*

CBIA supports the intent behind **HB 5465** – the promotion of "green jobs" in Connecticut. Connecticut needs to increase jobs and people seem eager to embrace "green jobs" as a means to improving the state's economy. CBIA offers the following specific comments on the following sections of **HB 5465**:

- **Section 3** – Calls for the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee to conduct a study to examine the feasibility and benefits of establishing a state energy office to serve as a conduit for federal funding. Although the proposal states that the study shall include the costs associated with such establishment, CBIA strongly believes costs should be the paramount issue of the study given the State's dire budget situation.
- **Section 6** – Expands the Renewable Energy Investment Fund (aka Clean Energy Fund) to allow it to support transportation projects for plug-in hybrid vehicles. This pairs well with the Governor's Executive Order 34 which created an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council ("the Council") to help Connecticut position itself on the forefront of the Electric Vehicle ("EV") market. Initiating legislation that promotes EV usage and infrastructure sends a positive message to the auto industry that Connecticut is serious about EVs and makes it more likely that Connecticut will experience the benefits of EVs (reduced reliance on foreign energy sources, reduced emissions and increased economic development from Research & Development and manufacturing). I encourage the Energy & Technology committee to engage with the Council as it reviews the issue and prepares to make recommendations this summer or fall.

- **Section 17** – increases the total output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric distribution company that shall be obtained from Class III sources from four percent in 2010 to twenty percent by 2020. While Class III sources certainly have their benefits, it is paramount that cost be taken into consideration. Subsection (f) addresses this, but it should be the top priority of the Section, not the last sentence. Everyone knows Connecticut has some of the highest electric rates in the country and it is important to acknowledge that policy decisions play a role in adding or reducing those costs.
- **Sections 20 & 21** – see discussion from Section 6 (Electric Vehicles).

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on **HB 5465**, the legislature should continue to dedicate itself to creating jobs and controlling our state's finances.

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HB 5466 *AAC Climate Change*

HB 5466 would require the DEP, in consultation with the DPUC, to establish regulations to monitor any state moneys spent with the intention of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CBIA supports this bill which would show policy makers the costs associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, policy makers should always have the cost benefit analysis information regarding renewable and other energy goals and technologies and their impact on electric rates.

CBIA is pleased to support **HB 5466**.

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