

Department of Correction

Testimony of Brian K. Murphy, Acting Commissioner

Energy and Technology Committee

Raised Bill No. 5214, *An Act Establishing a Wind Turbine Pilot Program at a Correctional Facility*

February 23, 2010

Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. I am Brian K. Murphy, Acting Commissioner for the Department of Correction (DOC) and submit this testimony on Raised Bill No. 5214, *An Act Establishing a Wind Turbine Pilot Program at a Correctional Facility*.

The DOC continues to work proactively to reduce energy costs wherever possible. Since 2007, the DOC completed 36 energy conservation projects, saving the agency \$600,000 annually and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1,593 metric tons. We are currently working on an additional 16 projects that should result in an additional savings of approximately \$300,000.

When a bill similar to Raised Bill No. 5214 was introduced during the 2009 session, the DOC began to gather and review information about making application for federal funds for the establishment of a wind turbine program at a correctional facility. The DOC learned that in order to begin the process of placing a wind turbine a number of things need to be considered, all of which would have to be completed utilizing consultants. The cost to hire consultants to determine where the turbine might be placed and then begin the permitting process would be extremely expensive. The DOC has looked at grants, and the grant holders have told us that the process for a wind turbine is cost prohibitive and they use their grant dollars on projects that have a proven success and require a short-time frame to implement.

Additionally, in the process of looking at wind turbines, the DOC has determined that a number of wind turbines would be necessary to provide enough electricity to a facility never mind have a surplus that would be "allocated" to the town. It should also be noted that the DOC checked on wind locations throughout the state and Cheshire does not have enough wind to support a wind mill of this size.

While the Department is excited about the concept of a wind turbine at a correctional facility, it would not be fiscally feasible at this time. DOC would be happy to meet with the proponent of this bill to discuss the above-noted concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on Raised Bill No. 5214, *An Act Establishing a Wind Turbine Pilot Program at a Correctional Facility*.