



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

999 BROAD STREET  
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604  
TELEPHONE (203) 576-7201  
FAX (203) 576-3913

BILL FINCH  
Mayor

TESTIMONY OF MAYOR BILL FINCH

Good Afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Bill Finch and I am the Mayor of the City of Bridgeport. I am here today to testify on Raised House Bill 5365 – AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES.

Bridgeport is a City poised for a transformation. Although the history of Bridgeport is rooted in an industrial past, the future of Bridgeport is a cleaner, greener sustainable future. That is why I have initiated our B-Green 20-20 campaign to increase the sustainability of the entire city. This is a grass roots effort, involving countless citizens and businesses from across the city. The B-Green campaign has targeted such things as a Conservation Corps made up of the youth of the city. This corps goes door to door signing up citizens for clean

energy, energy audits and rain barrels to reduce the storm water in the sewage system.

The City of Bridgeport has started down the path to a sustainable future, but the road is long and hard. The progress is measured in small steps, each one a struggle. To be successful in our transformation, we need to look for opportunities that give us the opportunity to take big leaps.

Bridgeport has numerous brownfield sites. These are exactly the types of sites that we have been considering as candidates for renewable energy projects in our discussions with the United Illuminating. United Illuminating shares of vision of a more vibrant Bridgeport, and has been a willing partner in all of our sustainability efforts. They have been particularly supportive of our interest in converting our closed landfill into just such an energy park. An effort such as this would turn an abandoned property back to the tax rolls, it would create jobs, and it would literally be a shining symbol of the sustainable future we hope to build.

Without major subsidies from the legislature to build renewable energy projects throughout our state, we need to encourage in every

way possible strong partnerships and incentives with the private sector to promote energy sustainability.

House Bill 5365 won't by itself bring our dream of an energy park on our old landfill to reality. But, this Bill is exactly the kind of legislation needed to allow forward thinking companies such as United

Illuminating to help us think differently about how we get our energy.

This bill opens the door for United Illuminating to consider of a variety of new approaches that will aid Cities such as ours on our journey to a sustainable future.

For these reasons, I strongly support House Bill 5365 in its current form. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.