

Testimony of

Joel M. Rinebold

Director of Energy Initiatives

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

before

Energy and Technology Committee

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regarding

Raised House Bill No. 5365

An Act Concerning Electric Distribution Companies

- ***Encouragement for long term investment:***
 The use of provisions for utility investment and ownership would provide opportunities for long term financing, often necessary for development of renewable energy facilities. Economic tests to monitor the efficacy and cost effectiveness of approved projects would ensure that the state's investments would provide long term benefits and value for ratepayers.
- ***Consumer partnerships would be forged to bolster community support:***
 Use of partnerships between the electric distribution company, electric efficiency partners, and consumers would encourage community participation for effective solutions that provide both reliable energy and opportunities for economic development.
- ***Create jobs and encourage economic development:***
 Development of renewable energy facilities will create jobs and increase opportunities for economic development. For example, if fuel cells were used to generate the Class I renewable energy, each MW of fuel cell capacity manufactured in the state would generate 148 jobs and approximately \$20 - \$22 million in gross state product.
- ***Effective merger of energy management with environmental benefits:***
 The development of Class I renewable energy facilities will provide additional public dividends to improve air quality. For example, the potential average annual emissions reductions for each MW of fuel cell capacity, compared to existing New England fossil fuel electric generation, would be approximately 8,750 lbs of NO_x, 32,000 lbs of SO_x, and 7 million lbs of CO₂.
- ***Mitigation of Federally Mandated Congestion Charges:***
 Provisions to reduce peak electric demand would mitigate Federally Mandated Congestion Charges (FMCC), which will help reduce ratepayer costs, and enhance grid reliability.