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TESTIMONY OF
BURLINGTON ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
REGARDING CONCERNS WITH PROPOSED LANGUAGE IN
BILL SB 463
AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCING OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY
THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Presented By
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Burlington, Vermont
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The Burlington Electric Department suggests changes to proposed bill SB 436. Specifically, in Sec. 2. Section 16-245a, paragraphs (6) through (15), the current draft proposes significant reductions in the required percentages of Class 1 renewable energy required in Connecticut in the future. The current requirement of 20% Class 1 renewable energy required in 2020 would be cut to 11.5%. Assuming this energy would have been supplied by emission free wind projects, this bill would result in a reduction of over 1,000 MW of new wind generation. It would also have a very significant impact in reducing the market price of Connecticut Class 1 renewable energy credits.

Speaking from Burlington Electric's perspective, two years ago, the voters of Burlington approved a \$12,000,000 improvement to our municipally owned biomass plant. The project would reduce the oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from the plant to less than 50% of pre project levels. The project was viewed economically possible due to the projected revenues from the sale of Connecticut Class 1 Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). The voters supported this project with an overwhelming 93% voting in favor. This project was installed on schedule and on budget and is presently a showcase of the value of renewable portfolio standards. Not only are air emissions lower, the improved economics allowed the plant to operate at higher levels and efficiencies. This relates to more regional jobs and energy costs going back to New England compared to exporting those payments to Canada for natural gas, or out of the region for coal or oil.

Burlington Electric recommends that the bill be modified to leave the Connecticut Class 1 energy requirements schedule unchanged.

This concludes Burlington Electric's comments. We will be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.