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Connecticut State Legislature
Energy and Technology Committee

Re: Testimony Regarding SB 1
March 15, 2011.

Dear committee chairs and members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I support the proposed bill, SB 1.

I have been involved in energy issues in the New Haven area since 2002. The DEP has had to deal with situations (interventions) that could have been avoided if the public had been involved earlier in the process by the DPUC. I am looking forward to the creation of DEEP; I think it will be an important first step in returning state energy priorities to conservation, efficiencies and alternative energy options and giving the public more opportunity to participate in determining our energy future in a sustainable and healthful way.

As many of you know, our urban centers are plagued with too many polluting facilities, forcing us to breathe unhealthy air and have chronic illnesses caused by breathing unhealthy air. We need a concerted effort to change how we do business to alleviate some of the terrible air pollution problems that we have.

I believe that investment in solar energy is very important for our energy future. Connecticut has very good solar insolation. I am tired of hearing the electrical utility industry misquote the price per kilowatt hour (50 cents/kwh) using faulty estimates of lifetime of the units in such a way that the entire system is to be paid for in 3 yrs. We know that most people will have paid for their system in 7 years from savings created by net metering and will enjoy continued generation for many more years. The lifetime of these systems is easily 20-25 years. The reduced air pollution and reduction in need for peak power in hot summer months will be very beneficial to our state's energy supply and to the health and well-being of our citizens. In addition, it will provide increased jobs for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Lynne Bonnett
New Haven Environmental Justice Network, Sierra Club, New Haven Bioregional Group