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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Program Director
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy & Technology Committee

March 1, 2011

Written testimony opposing Senate Bill 102, An Act Expanding The Definition Of A Class I
Renewable Energy Source

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick, and
members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony opposing SB 102. Environment Connecticut
is a member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization.

SB 102 appears similar to past proposals that would have allowed incineration or gasification of
non-renewable biosolids to qualify as a renewable electric generation resource under the Class I
tier of Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Any such change would undermine the
purpose of the RPS and therefore, Environment Connecticut strongly opposes this bill.

The Class I tier of the RPS is intended to create a market-based mechanism for gradually moving
Connecticut off of its dependence on old and increasingly expensive fuels such as oil for its
electric generation in favor of *new renewable* sources such as wind, solar, renewable biomass and
similar sustainable generation resources. SB 102 undermines this policy goal by adding a non-
renewable resource to the Class I tier.

An identical bill, SB 839, was introduced in the Environment Committee and received a public
hearing on January 31, 2011. At that hearing, proponents of the legislation testified that their
intent was to gain Class I credits for existing facilities that are non-renewable, polluting, and
actually involve combustion of fossil fuels. Clearly, this directly conflicts with the intent of the
Class I tier of the RPS and should be rejected.

On behalf of Environment Connecticut's statewide membership, I urge you to reject SB 102. This
bill would directly undermine the RPS and undercut Connecticut's goals for increasing use of
clean, renewable electric generation resources.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Program Director
Environment Connecticut