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

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Written testimony supporting SB 1176, An Act Concerning Electric Rate Relief

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony supporting SB 1176. Environment Connecticut is a member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization.

This bill establishes a per-kilowatt hour tax on generation produced by oil, coal, and nuclear power generators located in the state of Connecticut. The revenue would be used to close the state budget deficit, provide relieve to electric ratepayers, and to support investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. The bill also takes steps to repeal the tax on electric bills and raid of ratepayer funds enacted in 2010.

Environment Connecticut strongly supports SB 1176. It will provide direct relief to consumers and businesses by reducing their electric bills. Also, by establishing a charge on Connecticut's dirtiest and most dangerous power sources, and directing the revenue towards renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, SB 1176 helps create a sustainable energy future for our state.

Breaking our dependence on energy sources such as oil, coal and nuclear and transitioning to a clean energy economy will create jobs, save money for our families, and reduce pollution that threatens our health. On behalf of Environment Connecticut's statewide membership, I urge you to support SB 1176, AAC Electric Rate Relief.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Program Director
Environment Connecticut