



**Energy and Technology Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 15, 2011**

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**SB 1 An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan, statewide organization comprised of over 1800 members and committed to effective public policy and the active involvement of citizens in their government. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for your leadership on this issue.

The League supports environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, encourage the use of renewable resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I will restrict my comments to specific sections of the bill that relate to global warming.

Section 49 will require the comprehensive plan for energy resource procurement to indicate specific options that will reduce the price of electricity to consumers and maintain these reductions for a period of five years. The League believes that there needs to be a provision in this section to consider greenhouse gas emissions in any assessment of new sources of generation.

Sections 55 and 64 will require electric suppliers to offer customers a time-of-use rate option with premium charges for peak periods and below standard rates for nonpeak use. It will also require electric companies to make available time-of-use meters. These conservation incentives can often reduce the need for new fossil fuel generation sources while renewable alternatives are being developed.

Sections 56 through 62 provide the blueprint, financing and workforce for Connecticut's solar energy future with a goal of promoting a Connecticut based solar industry and creating a minimum of 30 megawatts of clean, renewable solar power.

Section 77 requires each state agency to develop a plan to reduce energy consumption by 10 percent.

Finally, Section 86 establishes a single point of contact for any state business that is interested in energy efficiency, conservation, renewable energy projects or the availability of grants, loans, energy audits and assessment services.

All of these provisions will help us meet our requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020.

We applaud your efforts in addressing our energy future in a comprehensive manner. Your success may be dependent on a bill that was heard yesterday in the Environment Committee to establish a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with adequate staffing and resources to perform its key functions.