



*Testimony of Hon. Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council*

*Submitted to the Energy and Technology Committee
In Reference to
Senate Bill Number One
An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future
March 15, 2011*

Good morning Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and other distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Linda Roberts and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council. I am appearing on behalf of Chairman Daniel Caruso who is conducting a previously scheduled public hearing at the Siting Council's Office in New Britain.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding Senate Bill Number One. On behalf of Chairman Caruso and the Siting Council, I urge you to adopt the principles outlined in this proposed bill. It is through the joined effort of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) that the State of Connecticut will be able to combine all our energy initiatives to achieve the goals of decreasing cost, ensuring reliability, encouraging the use of clean energy and developing our energy related economy.

However, there is one small change we would like you to consider. For the past 40 years, the Council has worked diligently to fulfill its mission to objectively balance the infrastructure needs of our State with the responsibility of protecting our citizens and the environment.

(over)

At first blush combining the representatives of the former DPUC and the DEP would seem a logical extension of the unified role its chairman must fulfill, however, we remain charged with adjudicating our matters while both protecting the environment and the wallets of consumers. To that end, we believe that we would continue to benefit from the expertise of representatives from both halves of this new department so as to best fulfill our duty to our citizens.

Moreover, the time demanded of council members is extensive. To that end, we also recommend that the Commissioner not be restricted to current employees of his department but rather to allow his designees to be a retiree or some other suitable person.

On behalf of Chairman Caruso and the members of the Siting Council, I thank you for the opportunity to testify and look forward to working with the new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to help achieve the energy goals of Connecticut.