



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 1168: AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

March 17, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

The Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) thanks the Committee for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1168. Senate Bill 1168 requires several agencies including the State Building Inspector's Office within Public Safety, the DPUC and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to initiate actions which would further encourage and prepare for the arrival of electric vehicles to our state. The DPUC is interested in playing a role to further promote the transition to electric and hybrid vehicles and provides the following comments.

As the Chairman of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council which was established to begin identifying issues and barriers connected to the advent of electric vehicles, the DPUC is pleased to see this bill come before this Committee. Connecticut still has work to do to forge a role as one of the first states to embrace this technology and use it as a tool for a more sustainable, greener and cleaner energy future. By promoting electric vehicles and working to support the build-out of an EV infrastructure network, Connecticut will be closer to addressing its issues with fuel diversity, cleaner emissions and providing some cost savings for residents who also share this vision.

The DPUC does note for the Committee that the State Building Inspector has already commenced some action to amend the building code to include a requirement that new residential and commercial construction have capacity for electric vehicle service equipment. This bill would codify the request that the state's Building Inspector's Office commence that endeavor. Also, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council did ask the Department of Transportation to review its high occupancy vehicles lane requirements to incorporate the use of electric vehicles and was informed that it could not change its HOV rules until such time that the Federal Highway Administration completes its reauthorization of the federal HOV guidelines. It is currently unknown to the DPUC when those guidelines will be completed.

The Department thanks the Committee for this opportunity to testify and looks forward to working with it on this issue.