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**Testimony of UTC Power  
Regarding**

**House Bill No. 5544**

***AN ACT CONCERNING STORM PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE***

**Before the Energy and Technology Committee  
March 20, 2012**

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Committee:

UTC Power appreciates the opportunity to convey its support for ***House Bill No. 5544, An Act Concerning Storm Preparedness and Emergency Response***. UTC Power, a United Technologies company located in South Windsor for the last 50 years, employs approximately 430 people in the development, design, production and service of fuel cells for use in stationary, transportation, space and defense applications.

Today UTC Power is providing fuel cell solutions for stationary and transportation applications. Fuel cell technology solutions benefit customers by providing higher system efficiencies within a broad range of applications. A fuel cell converts its input fuel directly into electricity, allowing the fuel cell to operate at much higher electrical efficiencies than an internal combustion engine. More simply, a fuel cell produces a larger amount of electricity than a combustion engine with the same fuel input. UTC Power's stationary solution is a sustainable energy generation system, with a combined heat and power efficiency approaching 90%. Our stationary fuel cells operate without combustion, make minimal noise and meet the strictest air standards in the United States

UTC Power thanks the leaders of the Committee for raising this bill and respectfully recommends further enhancements to ensure that this legislation achieves its desired objectives.

We support the addition of Section 12 which establishes a grant and loan program for the establishment of micro-grids for critical infrastructure in Connecticut. Installing distributed energy generation as part of these micro-grids will provide further energy reliability and security for Connecticut. However, we caution the Committee that the October 1, 2012 timeframe articulated in Section 12 (c) is not reasonable to properly install successful micro-grid projects. We strongly encourage the Committee to consider a more reasonable timeframe such as one year from the date of the RFP release per Section 12(b).

We would respectfully suggest that a date for the release of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's request for proposal (RFP) for micro grids be established within Section 12(b). A discernible timeline for the RFP allows project developers, electrical distribution companies and critical infrastructure end users to properly plan and execute all potential micro grids in Connecticut. This will help to facilitate the number of successful micro grid projects made operational using this grant funding.

Thank you again for your inclusion of micro-grid enabling language in HB 5544 as a part of the overall solution in promoting an even more resilient energy delivery system. We would be pleased to provide any information to the Committee and the staff in support of the consideration of this bill.