



CCM 2012 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3600 FAX (203) 562-8314

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

March 15, 2012

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports Senate Bill 415 "An Act Concerning the Operations of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Establishment of a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Finance Investment Authority."

Among other things, this bill would:

1. Provide greater ability to municipalities, who participate in the virtual net metering program created in PA 11-80, to lease or own the Class I Renewable facilities. ***Section 48***

While this section would make the installation of Class I renewable energy resources more economically viable for municipalities - by alleviating the financial barriers that the ownership requirement in PA 11-80 posed for municipalities interested in the program - the language is unclear as to who may participate.

Subsection (a) indicates that both "customer hosts" and "Governmental customer hosts" may participate, but Subsection (b) mandates VNM for "Governmental Customers Hosts" only.

CCM urges the Committee delete references to "Customer Host" and ensure this program applies only to governmental entities, especially given the very limited funding available.

2. Encourage adoption of rate structures that would (a) send appropriate price signals and (b) offer programs for consumers to promote water conservation. At the same time, would provide financial protection to water utilities, by ensuring the rates will continue to meet utility's operating costs and maintain a level of investment necessary to sustain the system. ***Sections 58-62***

This initiative comes on the heels of the adoption of Connecticut's streamflow regulations, and will be instrumental to build on those regulations and successfully promote conservation and reduce demands on the state's water resources.

CCM urges the Committee to amend the bill to clarify the intent of the virtual net metering program in Section 48 as cited above to ensure that this program remains a governmental customer program and then to favorably report the amended bill.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM via email dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 946-3783.