



CLEAN ENERGY
FINANCE AND INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

**Statement of the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority
Regarding Governor's H.B. 6360**

**AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S
COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY**

The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) hereby provides the following comments in support of the Governor's H.B. No. 6360 An Act Concerning Implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy.

CEFIA's mission is to support the Governor's and the Legislature's energy strategies to achieve cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable sources of energy while creating jobs and supporting local economic development. By attracting and deploying capital to finance these clean energy goals, CEFIA seeks to:

- Help Connecticut become the most energy efficient state in the nation;
- Help scale-up the deployment of renewable energy in the state; and
- Provide support for the infrastructure needed to lead the clean energy economy.

To that end, CEFIA supports the policies outlined in the bill and is currently implementing various financing programs proposed in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy.

Specifically, CEFIA strongly supports the following aspects of the bill:

- **Section 3 (Conservation Adjustment Mechanism)** – with the goal of realizing energy efficiency that is cost effective or lower cost than the acquisition of equivalent supply, CEFIA supports the institution of a Conservation Adjustment Mechanism in the near-term. The Governor and the Legislature through Public Act 11-80 have expressed the need for CEFIA to focus its efforts on attracting private capital investment to support the long-term needs of the state. This will allow for the reduction of subsidies and rebates over time through the implementation of financing programs, including C-PACE, on-bill financing, and other mechanisms.
- **Section 8 (Microgrids) & Section 9 (Energy Improvement Districts)** – CEFIA supports the development of microgrids and energy improvement districts (EID) as these “community energy” projects provide an opportunity for Connecticut to realize cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy for Connecticut citizens and

businesses. CEFIA is developing financing products that will support various components of a microgrid or EID.

- **Sections 10 and 11 (Commercial and Residential Building Labels)** – building labeling is an important method to increase the demand and subsequent deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in commercial and residential properties. The disclosure of energy consumption data before the sale or lease of such buildings will promote efficiency improvements. The use of the EPA’s Energy Star portfolio manager and the DOE’s Home Energy Scorecard rating tools will provide actionable information to sellers and buyers of commercial and residential buildings respectively.
- **Sections 13-15 (Data Accessibility and Benchmarking)** – Section 13 states that “Commencing January 1, 2012” electric and gas companies must make energy consumption data “available to the public”.
 - What is the deadline for companies to make this data available – 5 or 10 business days, 30 days, etc.? Is there a reasonable timeframe that can be stated in statute?
 - Does “available to the public” mean the property owner, utility bill payer, or any person wishing to access this data?

Commercial buildings participating in the C-PACE program must benchmark their energy consumption in the CEFIA Database Management Platform (CDMP) which is powered by Sustainable Real Estate Solutions, a Peer Benchmarking entity for Energy Star. Participating buildings receive their Energy Star Portfolio Manager score from the CDMP through participation in the C-PACE program. CEFIA requests that such buildings will have access to such data to fulfill the requirements of sections 13 and 15.

DEEP benchmarking of state facilities and making the information public for such buildings will support the state’s efforts to “lead by example” to reduce energy consumption by 20% by 2018. Such information will identify buildings that present “low hanging fruit” for energy efficiency investments by the state.

Section 19 (Natural Gas Expansion) – to support the implementation of the natural gas expansion provisions of the bill and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, CEFIA is launching several financing programs to support fuel conversions and equipment replacement including C-PACE for commercial and industrial properties and the Smart-E Loan for residential 1-4 single family units. Through the designation by DEEP, CEFIA, if it determines on-bill financing is an

effective mechanism to attract low-cost private capital for these initiatives, will seek to also implement an on-bill financing program for residential homeowners.

CEFIA is pleased to be a part of the new energy, environmental and economic development landscape in Connecticut and looks forward to supporting the legislature's and Governor's clean energy vision to deliver cleaner, cheaper and more reliable sources of energy.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments and look forward to working with all of you as we partner to realize/achieve Connecticut's clean energy goals.