

Testimony of

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before

Energy and Technology Committee

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regarding

Governor's Bill No. 6360

An Act Concerning Implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy

Introduction

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (“CCAT”), offers this testimony in support of Governor’s Bill No. 6360 - An Act Concerning Implementation of Connecticut’s Comprehensive Energy Strategy

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT) is supportive of the concepts raised in the Governor’s Bill that contains provisions that are favorable to the development and use of Class I renewable energy including fuel cells and advanced technologies that are or could be made in Connecticut. The components of this Bill that appear favorable include:

- ***Flexible implementation:***

The proposed Bill expands the opportunities to develop Class I and Class III renewable energy technologies that are leased or in long-term contracts. CCAT supports this change to increase participation of the virtual net metering program, and provide more opportunities to deploy fuel cells that are manufactured in this state.

- ***Provides opportunities for Class I renewable energy sources for municipal, state, and agricultural customers:***

The proposed Bill would expand the type of customers that would benefit from the development of Class I renewable energy facilities at a “customer host” to include municipal, state, and agricultural facilities. CCAT supports this change and suggests that this definition be further expanded to include commercial and industrial facilities that may have appropriate renewable energy resources, but lack electric demand sufficient to realize the total benefits of net metering. Expanding virtual net metering to commercial and industrial properties will help businesses reduce energy costs and remain competitive. In addition, this provision can be used as an economic development tool by the state for business recruitment and retention.

- ***Expand the development and use of Class I renewable energy capacity:***

The proposed Bill would increase the nameplate capacity for Class I renewable energy sources from two megawatts to three megawatts. CCAT supports this proposed change to increase opportunities for the development of Class I renewable projects.

- ***Provide incentive for the development of microgrids for enhanced energy reliability:***

The proposed Bill would increase the number of beneficial accounts from five to ten for municipal or state customers connected to a microgrid, or up to ten beneficial accounts at an agricultural host site. CCAT supports increasing the number of beneficial accounts to increase market opportunities for facility system development, and to improve energy reliability at microgrid applications.

- ***Market expansion:***

The proposed Bill would increase the cap for credits provided to beneficial accounts from one million dollars per year to ten million dollars per year. CCAT supports increasing the cap for credits to beneficial accounts to improve the potential for facility development and to enhance the market for renewable energy technologies.

- ***Submetering will promote the state's renewable energy goals:***

The proposed Bill would expand the types of customers that could be submetered to include commercial, industrial, multi-family residential, or multiuse buildings for electric power or thermal energy provided by a Class I renewable energy source. CCAT supports expansion of the submetering provisions to encourage the efficient development of Class 1 renewable energy facilities at appropriate end use sites.

- ***Create jobs and encourage economic development:***

Development of renewable energy facilities will create jobs and increase opportunities for economic development.

Conclusion

CCAT is supportive of the Governor's Bill that would encourage the development of Class I renewable energy resources, including fuel cell technology. Such development would support the state's RPS requirements, help to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals, provide high economic value to ratepayers, and create jobs.

CCAT will make itself available to the Committee and legislature upon request to assist in the refinement of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel M. Rinebold
Director of Energy Initiatives

CCAT is a nonprofit corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs and businesses and, through collaboration with industry, academia, and government, helps companies innovate and compete in the global market. CCAT implements programs that improve the economic competitiveness of the region through solutions that lower energy costs and increase long-term energy reliability. CCAT undertakes energy planning, and promotes renewable energy, including advanced technologies and sustainable fuels such as hydrogen.