

Written Testimony of Marianne Horn
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
March 07, 2013

Written Testimony Concerning Governor's Bill 6360 AN ACT CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY
STRATEGY.

I am writing today as a citizen of CT and as a member of Peoples Action for Clean Energy (PACE) to ask you take into consideration my concerns with the Governor's Bill to implement Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy (Strategy).

1. I ask you to preserve the integrity of the Class I Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Trash incineration is not clean energy and should not be considered Class I Renewable.

Canadian hydropower is not a good idea, not only because of the environmental damage its large scale hydro dams cause, but because we need local power and local jobs. Use of Canadian hydropower would take investments out of Connecticut and our region to support projects that would be built anyway and do not provide increased reliability or environmental benefits.

Proposals to dilute Class I with trash incineration would prop up uneconomic, environmentally damaging facilities with ratepayer dollars meant for new and clean renewables.

2. The Strategy places heavy and misguided emphasis on the use of natural gas. I urge you to adopt a strategy that instead supports energy efficiency above any kind of fossil fuel like natural gas.

Natural gas is a short-term and short-sighted stop gap that is creating environmental problems as a result of the hydro-fracking process used to access this shale gas.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) should develop programs and financing options to provide heating oil customers with more choice than just natural gas, to give heating oil customers a full range of choices for reducing heating costs, including energy efficiency and the use of ductless or geothermal heat pumps.

DEEP should integrate energy efficiency into all natural gas conversions. Requiring improvements to the building shell and the use of high-efficiency heating equipment will create more jobs, keep energy dollars in

Connecticut's economy and prevent the state from wasting natural gas in inefficient buildings.

DEEP should evaluate the full range of economic and environmental costs when making decisions on natural gas main expansions. The analysis must take into account: 1) energy savings available through efficiency; 2) full costs to consumers; and, 3) the environmental and climate costs and impacts from gas extraction, transport and use.

3. Finally, it is key that CT's energy future places much more importance on investment in micro-grids so that we are not crippled by hurricanes, snowstorms or terrorists. Our grid is brittle and therefore we are very vulnerable.

Thank you for your service and for your attention to my concerns and input on the implementation of this Strategy.

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