



# Town of Sterling

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March 6, 2013

RE: House Bill 6535, Section 2 modifying Sec. 16-1 (45)

I am writing to provide comment in favor of Section 2 of House Bill 6535. Section 2 of this bill would modify Sec. 16-1 (45) so that certain renewable energy facilities using wood recovered from construction and demolition waste would be allowed to continue to sell Class I Renewable Energy Certificates into the Connecticut REC market.

This amendment is critically important to ReEnergy Holdings, which owns and operates the ReEnergy Sterling renewable energy power plant in my community. ReEnergy also owns and operates seven other power plants in the Northeast U.S., two of which would be impacted by Section 2 of House Bill 6535.

ReEnergy Sterling is the largest single taxpayer in Sterling. The facility, located in the Sterling Industrial Park, has been an important part of our community's economy and a supportive corporate citizen since it opened in 1991. There are 31 local residents who are employed at the facility, in addition to many indirect jobs created from in-state purchases from this facility. ReEnergy Holdings acquired the facility in early 2011 and has invested millions of dollars in the facility since that time.

The 31-megawatt facility produces 200,000 MWh of electricity per year, enough to supply nearly 30,000 homes. The facility uses discarded tires and woody biomass as fuels, and serves as an important resource for the disposal of storm debris -- an increasingly important need for our communities here in Connecticut. In fact, we're proud to say that the Sterling facility is the first utility-scale power plant in Connecticut to generate Class I RECs from biomass beginning last fall.

Since ReEnergy's well-being as a company would be negatively impacted if this amendment is not approved, our community would be negatively impacted as well. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Selectman of the Town of Sterling, I request that you move forward in favor of Section 2 of this bill.

Sincerely,

Russell M. Gray  
First Selectman