



TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM REES, PRESIDENT

GREEN POWER SOLUTIONS, INC.

before the

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 6535: AN ACT REDEFINING CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Senator Duff, Representative Reed, Senator Chapin, Representative Hoydick and Members of the Energy & Technology Committee:

My name is William Rees and I am President of Green Power Solutions, Inc., a biomass development company focused on turning biomass into energy and value. GPS is working with connecticut farmers to construct on-farm anaerobic digesters (AD) facilities. These systems generate clean energy biogas/electricity, Cogen Heat, & fertilizer from the processing of manures, food and AG wastes.

I am here to testify in support of House Bill 6535. Specifically, I support the bill's expansion of Class I resources to include "anaerobic digestion of organic waste" and useful thermal energy derived from methane gas from anaerobic digesters.

Connecticut farms utilizing anaerobic digester systems will derive part of their revenue from the Renewable Energy Credit markets and, as you know, only designated resources can participate in the REC market. More importantly, however, the Class I designation will allow anaerobic digesters to participate in Virtual Net Metering, which is discussed in House Bill 6360 *An Act Concerning Implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy*. That bill is vital to the construction and successful operation of anaerobic digester systems on Connecticut's farms, which I discuss in more detail in my testimony on HB 6360.

In respect to HB 6535, I would like to suggest a minor change in the existing statute (herein Section 2) that will help the bill achieve a shared priority of the DEEP and Connecticut farms seeking to fuel AD facilities. In Section 2, the definition of "Sustainable Biomass" specifically disqualifies "organic refuse fuel derived separately from municipal solid waste". I request that the Committee consider striking this language so that this fuel is available for use in anaerobic digesters.

AD Facilities produce biogas from bacteria held in anaerobic conditions feeding on organic material and emitting biogas. This is a natural process that kills pathogens, recycles nutrients, and more. RGGI considers AD to be a net reduction emission technology; merely the installation of these farm facilities when destroying the methane reduces overall carbon

emissions. Adding the benefit of the electrical generation anaerobic digestion facilities are beyond Zero-REC emitting technologies.

This legislation if not already will have the support of the CT DEEP. They have passed recent legislation to mandate the larger CT food waste generators (104+ tons per year) to divert that quantity once an AD facility is operational in a 20 or 30 mile radius. (2011 State of Connecticut *Public Act No. 11-217*)

I encourage the Committee to speak with DEEP staff to see if there is a solution that will allow this waste to be considered "Sustainable Biomass" under the Statute.

I appreciate the opportunity to come and speak before you today. I am happy to take any questions the Committee may have.

Thank you.

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