

## Testimony of



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by Jonathan Leibovic, Community Organizer

### Regarding Bill 1138

#### **Honorable chairs and members of the Energy & Technology Committee:**

Having read through the testimony thus far submitted on this bill, I am impressed and pleasantly surprised by the quantity and quality of responses from energy consumers, business owners, labor groups, environmental professionals, and concerned citizens. Every single Connecticut resident has a vested interest in our state's clean energy future. Across the state, from Darien to Hartford and everywhere in between, people are taking notice of the actions of their elected and appointed representatives and weighing in. This is what democracy looks like. I do not envy your position now, having to take these many public comments into account, but I do thank you profusely for your work on behalf of our state.

Connecticut's renewable portfolio standard is as important as it is complex, and this bill has its highlights and lowlights. The proposed changes to standards for biomass, for example, are worthy of commendation. Construction and demolition waste should never be considered a sustainable fuel. On the other hand, however, this bill has major shortcomings in other areas, most notably hydropower, solar, and methane. I won't pretend to understand all the details, but nevertheless I implore you to take great care when considering proposals that will impact the quality of air, water, and soil, in Connecticut and around the world.

Toxics Action Center represents New England communities whose most basic and vital resources have been compromised. But the consequences of our energy decisions – your energy decisions – have major ramifications around the world, from the Innu First Nation to the Marcellus Shale. When the whole life-cycle is accounted for, mining fossil fuels for energy is one of the most toxic endeavors that humankind has ever undertaken. Methane is of course a fossil fuel – unless it comes from a biological process, as does methane from landfills and from anaerobic digestion. I can only assume that the draft bill's language concerning methane is either a typographical error or a cruel joke. Under no circumstances whatsoever can “methane”, without qualification, be considered a renewable resource. The process of hydraulic fracturing is incredibly toxic. As members of the Energy and Technology committee, you are no doubt familiar with the jarring reports of diseases from “fracked” communities, not to mention the terrifying lack of transparency when it comes to disclosure of the chemical soup that is used to unearth fossil methane. On behalf of communities in Connecticut and beyond that depend on drinkable water and breathable air, I hope that on your watch, no taxpayer funds will be granted to such polluting corporations. Thank you for all your work to ensure that Connecticut, and our planet, will have a just, sustainable, and healthy future.