

Energy and Technology Committee, OPPOSING 1138

Pippa Bell Ader, Westport

In Opposition of Bill 1138.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am Canadian by birth, in fact I grew up in Quebec, and we Quebecers are very proud of our hydro power. You may have gone to the state capital as a young student. I went to the hydro-power plant.

But I am American now, and a strong believer in developing sustainable and clean energy within the state of Connecticut. If this bill passes, Connecticut will have started on a slippery slope towards weakened Renewable Energy standards. We will be relying on another country to provide renewable energy, energy that it would be producing anyway. Think of all the lost jobs.

As for watering down the Class 1 Renewable Portfolio Standard to include such things as trash to energy, this is supporting uneconomical and environmentally damaging facilities with ratepayer dollars, money that was meant for new and clean renewables.

Such significant changes need to be carefully studied before being implemented. Please don't rush into anything. Reviewing the study on Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standards, when it is completed, would help you make a more informed decision.

Our state needs to take steps to protect our environment, create jobs and build a clean energy future -- not the opposite. Investing more in solar and wind in our region will help insulate consumers from the rollercoaster of fossil fuel prices. I urge you to oppose this bill and not weaken Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard.