



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 7, 2013
Testimony in Support of,
HB 5587 An Act Concerning Submetering At Apartment Buildings And Condominiums**

Honored Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee

I would like to take the opportunity thank you for raising House Bill 5587 and offer this testimony in favor of this proposal.

The language of this bill is simple, but the effects are profound. No legislator here today can deny that our state needs to respond to a new reality, a reality of storms and floods that have left crippling power outages in towns like my home town of Madison. Similarly, we all recognize that the reality of our power portfolio. Our legislature has adopted many measures to encourage renewable power. Yet there has been a problem. We need to encourage sources of generating power, but our laws are in the way. This bill encourages the development of alternative and auxiliary power systems by authorizing private owners of multiple tenant or condo ownership facilities to develop non-public-utility power sources or convert urban commercial or industrial buildings to a residential use and to sell power through individual meters to their tenants. These arrangements would be subject to the review of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental protection and the Office of Consumer Counsel. A developer of a multi-unit complex can build sources of backup power, like solar cells, wind turbines, or even fuel cells running on natural gas, but yet these sources cannot defray this cost by setting up the technology to appropriately charge for the power provided.

HB 5587 corrects this error, however, I wish to denote another bill before you today, the Governor's Comprehensive Energy Plan that in section 6, accomplishes in more depth a similar aim. I encourage this committee to adopt HB 5587 and the companion sentiment in that section of the Governor's Bill.

I wish to acknowledge Professor Joseph MacDougald of the UCONN School of Law. His work at his Center for Energy & Environmental Law called this issue to my attention. Further, he brings with him Professor Sara Bronin, also of the UCONN School of Law who is a recognized national expert in this field.

Representative Noreen Kokoruda, 101st District