



March 19, 2013

On behalf of 350 Connecticut, I would like to thank the Energy & Technology committee for the opportunity to comment on LCO 4767, the proposed substitute for Senate Bill 1138. Implementing clean renewable energy projects is extremely important to the people of Connecticut and we demand that the best and safest technology be used to upgrade our power grid. Unfortunately this bill changes the rules of the Renewable Portfolio Standard to allow dirty and ecologically damaging technologies to be considered “renewable”.

The Connecticut legislature showed foresight and smart planning when it passed the requirements to ramp up our transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. It was recognized as necessary and urgent that we stop using ecologically harmful technology to power our society or face destructive storms, sea level rise and droughts that threaten our food systems. Over the past two years, we have seen the beginning of these effects and the need to expedite this transition is even greater.

Unfortunately bill 1138 is a step in the wrong direction. It would modify the standards for hydropower projects to allow large dams that modify the natural course of waterways to be supported by Connecticut taxpayers instead of supporting beneficial solar and wind projects as the original legislation intended. It would also divert investments from the job creating renewable energy projects in CT to projects outside our state and outside the United States.

On February 17, residents of CT and around the nation traveled to D.C. to demonstrate that they support actions and laws that move Forward On Climate. This proposed bill would move us backward on climate change, harm our local economy and damage the health of CT citizens. Instead of modifying the renewable energy standards to allow large industry to benefit, we should be implementing solutions to reach our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets sooner with true renewable energy like solar and wind.

Thank you,

Ben Martin  
350CT.org

350CT 71 Orange St, New Haven, CT 06510

350CT.org

organizers@350CT.org