

**Written Testimony of John Humphries, CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs
Before the CT General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee**

**Written Testimony Concerning Governor's Bill 1138 AN ACT CONCERNING
CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN ENERGY GOALS**

First, I want to express my appreciation to the committee co-chairs, Senator Duff and Rep. Reed, and all the members of the Committee for accepting this testimony.

I have been helping to convene the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, a unique collaboration between the CT AFL-CIO and the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, designed to promote dialogue among labor, religious, environmental and community leaders concerned about the challenge of reducing the threat of climate change while creating good-paying jobs as part of a sustainable economy. We believe that State energy and environmental policies need to address the dual crises of economic stagnation and climate change.

As a Roundtable, we have sought to identify areas where our diverse constituencies can find agreement and speak with one voice. Through those conversations, I have become clear on the following positions that address aspects of this legislation;

- I applaud the proposed increase in the renewable portfolio standards to 25% by 2025. In the Roundtable's statement on the draft Comprehensive Energy Strategy, we urged the DEEP to move ahead with the proposal to increase this percentage.
- However, I strongly oppose the reclassification of large-scale hydropower as a Class I renewable. Doing so would reduce incentives to expand regional wind energy production, in-state solar and fuel cell development. Canadian hydropower will likely prove to be significantly cheaper than existing sources of power generated in CT. In that case, it will be competitive without the proposed reclassification. The purpose of the RPS is to support the development of in-state and in-region renewable. Canadian hydropower does not need special assistance. Instead, we should seek to meet the 25% by 2025 requirement by having Connecticut make a sustained commitment to renewable energy by signing long-term contracts for renewable energy generated in New England. We need to invest our energy dollars in ways that promote local and regional economic activity.
- To enable a clear assessment of local and regional economic impacts, all energy-related policy proposals should include job impact statements based on a uniform method of evaluation. This would apply to alternative approaches to meeting an expanded renewable portfolio standard of 25% by 2025.

Thank you.

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