



**TESTIMONY REGARDING OF SB 1138, AN ACT CONCERNING
CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN ENERGY GOALS BY JOHN P. MURPHY
ON BEHALF OF THE CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP
AND INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS LOCAL 1228 – MARCH 19, 2013**

Good afternoon, Senators Duff and Chapin; Representatives Reed and Hoydick; members of the committee. My name is John Murphy and I am here to testify in opposition to Substitute Bill 1138, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Clean Energy Goals on behalf of CCAG and IBEW Local 1228. CCAG is also a member of the Connecticut Energy Alliance.

CCAG's main opposition to this bill as currently written is that there is an over reliance on Hydro Quebec to meet our renewable energy goals. This level of commitment to Hydro Quebec and Northeast Utilities (NU) will slow the development of in-state renewable resources and the creation of green jobs for Connecticut residents as a result of that commitment to out of region hydroelectric power.

Between the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) and this bill, NU has been chosen as a clear winner by both this committee and DEEP. This bill is nothing short of a sweetheart deal for NU, and will undermine the ability of wind and solar power to stabilize energy prices that wildly fluctuate due to fossil fuel prices.

This bill raises many more questions than it settles regarding definitions, the contracted tier, double counting and impact our overall goals. The long term contracting piece needs to be strengthened so renewable producers in our region can have some stability, just like consumers and businesses need stability.

DEEP finally released their RPS study and there will be a 30 day period for public comment. It is our hope that this committee and DEEP will listen to the members of the CT Energy Alliance and other interested parties who comment. Quite frankly, CCAG was disappointed by DEEP's lack of inclusion of CT Energy Alliance groups' comments from the public comment sessions on the CES.

We hope the process regarding improvements and further refinements to the RPS study by DEEP will be taken seriously. Please incorporate ideas and comments by CT Energy Alliance groups on this bill and the CES into substitute bill language before any floor action.

In closing, CCAG has fought long and hard for the past 42 years for social, economic, racial and environmental justice. We have long advocated for a comprehensive energy strategy for Connecticut that balances the need for affordable energy for consumers while substantially improving our energy efficiency and expanding our use of clean, renewable resources. Over committing to natural gas and Hydro Quebec at the expense of clean, renewable energy sources is short sighted and stifles innovation in the long run. Please commit to in-state development of Class I resources and green jobs for our economy. Thank you.