



Testimony of Adam Cohen
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Submitted to the Energy & Technology Committee

[Raised S.B. No. 353 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE PROJECTS](#)

[Raised H.B. No. 5414 AN ACT CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF
CONNECTICUT-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES](#)

March 4, 2013

Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Reed, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Adam Cohen; I am Founder and Vice President of Pioneer Green Energy, a renewable energy development company based in Austin, Texas.

It is my pleasure to speak to you this morning with respect to Raised S.B. No. 353 An Act Concerning the Development of Class I Renewable Energy Source Projects and Raised H.B. No. 5414 An Act Concerning Development of Connecticut-Based Renewable Energy Sources.

Developing wind projects within the State of Connecticut will achieve the goals set forth in Governor Malloy's 2013 Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy which seeks to position "Connecticut as a leader in creating a cheaper, cleaner energy future while growing the state's economy and ensuring that Connecticut is an increasingly desirable place to live and work."

Currently, the State of Connecticut's electric supply fuel mix is 45% natural gas and 47% nuclear, which combined accounts for 92% of the fuel for the state's electric supply. (Source: 2013 Comprehensive Energy Strategy for Connecticut, Page 75, February 19, 2013)

Connecticut's increased reliance on natural gas in recent years has exposed the state to volatile gas prices as well as weather-induced supply interruptions. Recent extreme weather events are one factor that has shown

there is a critical need to expand and diversify Connecticut's fuels sources. As the 2013 Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy plan clearly states: "This lack of diversification subjects Connecticut to potential electricity rate increases and reliability risks if natural gas-fueled generation costs spike, or one of its nuclear plants need to go off-line for an extended period."

Developing wind turbine facilities here in Connecticut offers a direct answer to the challenges laid out in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy Plan by enhancing local grid reliability and offering diversification from these price and seasonal supply risks faced by fossil and bio fuel generation. Indeed, in-state wind can help stabilize voltage in critical load centers, compensate for voltage losses on transmission lines, and potentially serve critical local load in the event of a transmission outage.

Clean energy projects located in the State of Connecticut achieve the goals of the Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy and Section 16-1(26) of the Connecticut General Statutes by directly improving reliability in Connecticut and positioning "Connecticut as a leader in creating a cheaper, cleaner energy future while growing the state's economy and ensuring that Connecticut is an increasingly desirable place to live and work."

Only in-state renewable energy projects can achieve these goals in a tangible way. Additionally, encouraging in-state renewable energy projects provides valuable hands-on educational workforce development for the many clean energy programs at local colleges and universities around the state.

In conclusion, in-state wind energy projects offer direct job and long term economic growth that out of state projects cannot offer. Having steel in the ground injects millions of dollars into local Connecticut economies that buying clean energy from other states or foreign countries cannot. The tangible benefits of the in-state clean energy development are tremendous.

Thank you.