

Testimony of Paul J. Corey on behalf of BNE Energy Inc.  
before the Energy and Technology Committee  
*In Support of Raised Bill No. 353, An Act Concerning the  
Development of Class I Renewable Energy Source Projects*  
Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Senator Duff, Representative Reed and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Paul Corey and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of BNE Energy Inc. in support of Raised Bill 353, An Act Concerning the Development of Class I Renewable Energy Source Projects.

BNE Energy (BNE) is wind developer based in Connecticut that was formed in 2006 for the sole purpose of developing commercial wind energy in the state of Connecticut. We currently have two commercial wind projects in Colebrook under development that have been approved by the Siting Council known as Colebrook South and Colebrook North. Colebrook South is further along and is construction ready. We began construction on the site in December 2013 to lock in federal tax credits for the project. The Siting Council decision was appealed and has been upheld by the Superior Court. The appeal of the Superior Court decision is currently pending before the Supreme Court. Oral arguments were held on February 21, 2014 and a decision is expected in the spring upholding the approval. We expect to construct Connecticut's first commercial wind project as soon as the Supreme Court issues its final non-appealable decision.

Colebrook South been approved for 3 GE 2.85 MW wind turbines totaling 8.5 megawatts (MW). However, we currently only have a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 5 MW that was obtain pursuant to Section 127 of Senate Bill No. 1243. As a result, we are only able to proceed at this time with the construction of 2 – GE 2.85 MW wind turbines de-rated to 2.5 MW for a total of 5 MW of clean renewable energy in our state. To put that in perspective, Colebrook South will supply 200% of the annual energy usage on average of all the households and businesses in the entire Town of Colebrook from just 2 wind turbines with a maximum nameplate capacity of 5 MW. Wind Colebrook also represents a significant investment in the community. Overnight BNE will become the largest taxpayer in Colebrook. In addition, these wind projects will create green jobs, foster economic development and help the state meet the mandated goals of 20% Class I renewable energy by 2020.

While Section 127 was a good start, it is certainly not enough. RB 353 will increase the amount of zero emissions Class I renewable energy projects eligible for PPAs and further encourage renewable energy development in the state. PPAs are critical to the success of any energy project. RB 353 would allow Colebrook South to compete for a PPA for the additional 3.5 MW of available capacity realizing the full potential of the project as approved. A PPA for the additional 3.5 MW will increase the amount of renewable energy production from Colebrook South by 42%. It would also allow BNE and other wind and solar developers to respond to the procurement process for other zero emissions renewable projects between 1 to 20 MW.

The Energy and Technologies Committee should be commended on its support for renewable energy in Connecticut. Increasing the aggregate capacity of zero emission projects eligible to

compete for PPAs would only enhance the state's commitment to renewable energy. Wind energy is the fastest growing sector in the energy industry and it is the leading source of renewable energy in the United States with over 60,000 MW of installed capacity through the end of 2012. Today, wind energy is being embraced by states and local communities throughout New England and being built near schools, churches and homes. Connecticut is the only state without commercial wind, but we have an opportunity to change that. Wind energy has the capability to become a leading source of renewable energy in the state. RB 353 would help provide a critical component to zero emission projects and allow BNE and others to compete for PPAs for wind and solar projects in the state.

Connecticut is a leader in supporting renewable energy, and all forms of renewable energy should be promoted including wind. We need clean renewable energy projects built in the state of Connecticut. RB 353 will help accomplish the state's renewable energy goals.

BNE Energy strongly urges the adoption of Raised Bill No. 353.

Thank You,



Paul J. Corey  
Chairman