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**Testimony of ClearEdge Power
Regarding**

Senate Bill No. 358

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM

**Before the Energy and Technology Committee
March 4, 2014**

Senator Duff, Representative Reed and members of the Committee:

ClearEdge Power appreciates the opportunity to convey its strong support for *Senate Bill No. 358, An Act Concerning the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program*.

ClearEdge Power, a company located in South Windsor, CT, Hillsboro, OR, and Sunnyvale CA, employs over 300 people in the development, design, production and service of fuel cells for use in stationary power and heat applications. ClearEdge Power supports the proposed changes within Senate Bill No. 358, "An Act Concerning the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program".

Today ClearEdge Power is producing fuel cells for stationary applications for energy generation with system efficiencies approaching 90%. Through the use of combined heat and power, our stationary fuel cells provide power and heat with no combustion, minimal noise and ultra-low criteria air pollutants. Our systems also contribute to peak power reduction and can provide off-grid power and heat, enhancing power reliability and overall resiliency within the State.

We support the proposed language to update subsection (a)(1)(B) of Connecticut General Statute ("CGS") 16a-40g to include microgrid generation and upgrades defined by CGS 16-245n as eligible upgrades for financing through the commercial property assessed clean energy program ("CPACE"). The bill encourages financing clean generation in conjunction with increasing reliability and resiliency helping to meet several State environmental and energy goals simultaneously.

By allowing the clean energy upgrades within a microgrid to be eligible for the CPACE program, the bill recognizes inefficiencies within Public Act 12-148, which initially failed to launch a defined pathway to support funding or financing for the generation portion of a microgrid. As round two of the microgrid program approaches, the proposed language introduces a critical update to eligible CPACE upgrades in light of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's new technical microgrid requirement of 24/7, clean, generation. By combining these two programs, the State is ensuring that each ratepayer dollar spent will leverage private capital to support the implementation and operation of clean, continuous, reliable and resilient microgrids. Additionally, passage of this bill will ensure Connecticut continues to lead the country in establishing the most robust CPACE program, and inclusion of microgrids will place the State in the forefront of resilient distributed generation policy.

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Thank you for the opportunity to express our desire for SB 358 to meet the State's objective of the cleanest and most cost effective energy policy possible. The intent of SB 358 could also facilitate positive economic impacts and job creation and retention in the State of Connecticut. We would be pleased to provide any information to the Committee and the staff in support of the consideration of this bill.

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