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**Testimony of ClearEdge Power
Regarding**

Senate Bill No. 404

***AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY
PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES***

**Before the Planning and Development Committee
March 14, 2014**

Senator Osten, Representative Rojas and members of the Committee:

ClearEdge Power appreciates the opportunity to convey its support for *Senate Bill No. 404, An Act Concerning Building Permit Fees for Class I Renewable Energy Projects and Renewable Energy Credits for Trash-To-Energy Facilities*.

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. 404, "An Act Concerning Building Permit Fees for Class I Renewable Energy Projects and Renewable Energy Credits for Trash-To-Energy Facilities".

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 (c) of Connecticut General Statute ("CGS") section 29-263 to eliminate permitting fees for Class 1 projects above and beyond municipal administrative fees. The proposed bill streamlines the permitting fee process with consistent, understood and reasonable permitting fees for Class 1 projects. The language eliminates severe inconsistencies within the State of Connecticut with respect to the cost of installing Class 1 renewable generation sources; for example, East Hartford imposed a permitting fee of ~\$75,000 for the installation of 800kW of Class 1 renewable generation and by contrast, Hartford imposed a permitting fee of ~\$20,000 for the installation of 400kW of Class 1 renewable generation. Removing these inconsistencies sends a clear message about the State's support for clean energy deployment while encouraging the municipalities to also support clean projects by removing variable "soft" costs to energy consumers/customers, like permitting fees. This will significantly help developers and customers of Class 1 projects account for all costs associated with doing business within the State. Because we

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understand this is a potential revenue stream for the municipalities, we would be amenable to language establishing standard fees based on installed capacity up to a standard, maximum fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our desire for SB 404 to meet the State's objective of the cleanest and most cost effective energy policy possible. The intent of SB 404 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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