



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 11, 2015  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

**Raised House Bill 6959 – AAC A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised House Bill 6959 – AAC A Sustainable Community Rating System**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports this proposal. DEEP believes that identifying actions that would contribute to the long-term environmental and economic sustainability of Connecticut's communities is very consistent with the state's overarching mission of protecting the health and welfare of our citizens, businesses and environment. Importantly, the composition of the proposed panel reflects the fact that sustainability has multiple components and that a comprehensive rating system should value, as the STAR Community Rating System and others do, everything from the natural and built environment to energy, housing, education, public health, and a community's overall economic well-being.

DEEP and the University of Connecticut have established the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). CIRCA is engaged in multi-disciplinary research projects to better understand the impacts of a changing climate on the state's coast and inland waterways and to develop approaches to mitigating those impacts. CIRCA's work will help inform the development of a critical component of the proposed Sustainable Community Rating System and we would suggest that it would be beneficial to include a CIRCA representative on the panel.

In closing, DEEP looks forward to working with the committee to further develop this concept and the department is prepared to facilitate the convening of the panel established by the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).