

Testimony of

Joel M. Rinebold

Director of Energy Initiatives

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

before

Energy and Technology Committee

February 24, 2015

Regarding

**Proposed H.B. No. 6027 - An Act Concerning Microgrids.**

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (“CCAT”), offers this testimony in support of Proposed H.B. No. 6027 - An Act Concerning Microgrids.

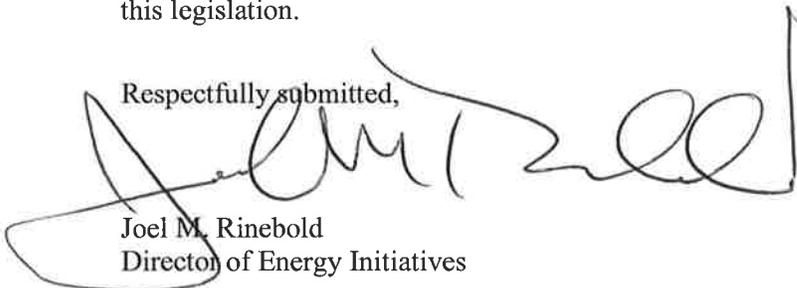
CCAT is a nonprofit corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs, businesses, industry, academia, and government. The Energy Initiative of CCAT has been established to improve the economic competitiveness of the region through solutions that lower energy costs and increase long-term energy reliability. This CCAT Initiative provides assistance to municipalities, businesses, and manufacturers regarding energy use and development; undertakes energy planning, including assisting municipalities with energy assurance planning and microgrid development; and promotes renewable energy, including fuel cells and sustainable fuels.

The proposed Bill would encourage and improve development of microgrids to enhance energy reliability in the State. CCAT is currently assisting municipalities within the State, with support from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to identify and implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grid, and microgrid projects. CCAT encourages the use of Class I renewable energy sources, such as fuel cells, in microgrid applications to improve energy reliability and help to achieve renewable energy goals, consistent with Connecticut’s renewable portfolio standards (RPS) requirements. Furthermore, CCAT supports the use of fuel cells in microgrid applications due to their high efficiency with combined heat and power and high availability factor. In addition, because they are manufactured in this state, fuel cell technology provides significant economic benefits to the State and region.

The State’s Microgrid Program is of high public benefit, and serves to enhance energy reliability, support the stabilization of the electric grid, increase energy efficiency, and increase the development of renewable and advanced distributed energy technologies that represent an emerging industry in the State.

CCAT will make itself available to the Committee and legislature upon request to assist in the refinement of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel M. Rinebold', is written over the typed name and title below.

Joel M. Rinebold  
Director of Energy Initiatives