

TESTIMONY OF ERIC J. BROWN  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
before the  
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
March 17, 2015

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I am an attorney with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (“CBIA”) and director of its Environmental Policies Council. CBIA’s mission is to work with our members and public officials to make Connecticut a more attractive location for business investment in order to grow jobs and economic opportunity for those who live here. Our members include businesses from across the state of all sizes and from nearly every industry in Connecticut.

CBIA appreciates this opportunity to provide comments regarding **H.B. 6958**, An Concerning Natural Gas Contracting, and **H.B. 6985**, An Act Increasing Natural Gas Transportation Capacity.

Our understanding is that both of these bills are represent the committee’s intention to empower the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to conduct a study of various options for the contracting of natural gas and natural gas capacity.

CBIA is pleased that several natural gas infrastructure expansion projects are making their way through the regulatory approval process and are scheduled for construction and completion over the next few years. We believe it is important that the design of the capacity contracting system associated with this forthcoming increased capacity provide the maximum potential benefit to to all ratepayers with respect to lowering their overall energy costs. This means, among other things, ensuring reliable supplies of affordable natural gas for the gas generation power units in our region, a mechanism that provides a buffer against seasonal spikes in natural gas prices, and a system that maintains the opportunity for a competitive natural gas and fuel oil marketplace.

CBIA supports this committee’s proposals, as we understand them, to have PURA conduct such a proceeding. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment and your consideration.