

TESTIMONY OF  
STEPHEN GIBELLI, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

Energy and Technology Committee  
March 17, 2015

**RE: H.B. No. 6989, AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES**

Eversource Energy thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 6989. Eversource is committed to finding ways to support Connecticut's energy goal of providing cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy resources to the citizens of our state. First and foremost, we support a study to be conducted by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("Authority") to determine the benefits and cost impacts of any proposed public policy initiative prior to implementation. We believe that such a study is in the best interest of the state's electric customers. We are concerned that bills such as these will shift costs to non-participating customers, which may particularly impact our low income customers.

This bill appears to bring back a distributed generation grant program that was instituted several years ago, which has the potential to add up to \$60 million of additional ratepayer costs. Under the previous distributed generation program, the Authority established the amount of the grants based on each project's reduction to the federally mandated congestion charges ("FMCCs") that are paid for by all of Connecticut's electric consumers. For that reason, a similar requirement that selected projects must reduce FMCCs should be added to this bill. While this bill does call for an assessment of the program to be conducted by the Authority, such assessment may not conclude until January 2019, well after millions of ratepayer funds have been expended on the program.

We look forward working with the committee and other stakeholders in revising this bill to further protect customers while at the same time advance distributed generation deployment within the state.

Thank you.