



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – March 17, 2015
Energy and Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee and Chair of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Arthur House

Senate Bill No. 6990 – AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITIES OF THE FUTURE

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding House Bill No. 6990 – An Act Concerning Utilities of the Future. The Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP or Department) and the Chairman of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) welcome the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee’s interest in furthering policy and understanding with respect to building a regulatory framework to support the utility of the future. With advances in information technology, increasing affordability of clean, distributed generation such as solar photovoltaics, Connecticut ratepayers stand to benefit from policies that help to maximize the benefits from and better integrate so-called distributed energy resources into the operation of the electric grid, providing for a renewed, more resilient utility system.

We respectfully request that the Committee consider assigning the responsibility for conducting a study regarding utilities of the future to DEEP. A successful transition to the “utility of the future” will require a comprehensive approach to utility regulation as well as the ways in which our state supports and deploys energy efficiency and distributed generation.

DEEP is uniquely suited to conduct this type of comprehensive, holistic review, which must include ample opportunity for stakeholder participation and input. DEEP is charged with broad responsibilities for energy policy and regulation for the state, including the development of the state’s Comprehensive Energy Strategy. The Commissioner of DEEP is a member of the board of both the Connecticut Green Bank and the Energy Efficiency Board, institutions which will have important input and especial relevance for the “utility of the future” framework in Connecticut. DEEP also oversees the implementation of the state’s utility-administered Conservation and Load Management programs.

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 (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov)