



State of Connecticut

SENATOR LEONARD A. FASANO

SENATE MINORITY LEADER

34TH DISTRICT

SUITE 3400
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
www.SenatorFasano.com

HARTFORD: (860) 240-8800
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421
FAX: (860) 240-8306
Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov

Testimony in Support of SB 140
Energy and Technology Committee
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
10:00 AM in Room 1A of the LOB

Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, Senator Formica, Representative Ackert and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 140 *An Act Requiring the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to Initiate a Docket Regarding Ratepayer Savings Under Renewable Energy Programs*.

It was just recently reported that our state had the dubious distinction of having the highest electricity rates in the continental United States for 2014 at 16.98 cent per kilowatt hour. This has led many of us to wonder, why does Connecticut have such high electricity rates and what can we do about it? Although many of the reasons why we are a high cost electricity state are beyond all our control, the policies that we enact as a legislature do have an impact. As a result, I am proposing SB 140 so we can determine if many of the recent programs and policies we have adopted to spur the development of clean energy are in the best interest of ratepayers.

This bill requires PURA to study our current Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) as well as the other state mandated renewable energy programs, including the LREC and ZREC program to determine:

- a) The total cost to ratepayers to annually comply with the RPS;
- b) Whether the RPS and market conditions are the most cost-effective way to achieve the desired renewable energy generation goal or if long-term contracts are the more cost-effective;
- c) If the current renewable energy programs are duplicative and if so, how can we consolidate the programs to achieve ratepayer savings?

We recognize that government subsidies are necessary to assist the fledgling solar industry, but we need to ensure that we are doing everything in our power to reduce the cost of electricity in our state and that we are protecting ratepayers from unnecessarily high rates.

Again, I thank the committee for holding this public hearing on SB 140 and request the committee favorably report the bill out of committee.

Len Fasano
Senate Minority Leader