



The Energy and Technology Committee

Public Hearing, March 1, 2016

Office of Consumer Counsel

Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel

Testimony of Elin Swanson Katz

**Raised Bill No. 224,
*An Act Concerning the Capacity and Criteria for
Certain Renewable Energy Generation Facilities***

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has carefully reviewed Raised Bill No. 224, *An Act Concerning the Capacity and Criteria for Certain Renewable Energy Generation Facilities*, and supports the bill so long as all new renewable generation facilities will be chosen in a *competitive process* overseen by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), in consultation with OCC and other interested state parties.

Raised Bill No. 224 would expand existing General Statutes § 16-244v so that it could lead to up to 200 megawatts of renewable energy development, from the thirty megawatts currently listed, and would allow up to 130 of such megawatts to be built by the electric distribution companies. Given the aggressive renewable energy and emissions reductions goals of the State, OCC supports the increase and does not object to the potential involvement of the electric distribution companies (“EDC”) in the development of new facilities. OCC would respectfully recommend, however, that the bill be amended to clarify that all facilities will be selected through a competitive bidding process overseen by DEEP and involving OCC and other interested state parties. In such processes, EDC proposals could compete with non-EDC proposals to ensure the most favorable outcome for ratepayers. Moreover, the 65 megawatt authorization to each EDC should not be treated as an alienable entitlement—the EDCs may build,

including in a partnership, but should not be allowed to simply assign their “rights” to another developer such that a renewable energy facility could be chosen by the EDC and developed without a competitive process. DEEP has held numerous successful large-scale energy facility procurements and OCC would recommend that such processes continue to be the method for developing and financing new renewable energy generation infrastructure where state support is necessary.