Testimony of

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Before the

Energy and Technology Committee

March 1, 2016

Regarding

Senate Bill No. 224 - An Act Concerning the Capacity and Criteria for Certain Renewable Energy Generation Facilities.

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT), offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 224 - An Act Concerning the Capacity and Criteria for Certain Renewable Energy Generation Facilities.

CCAT is a nonprofit corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs, businesses, industry, academia, and government. The Energy Initiative of CCAT has been established to improve the economic competitiveness of the region through solutions that lower energy costs and increase long-term energy reliability. This CCAT Initiative also provides assistance to businesses and manufacturers regarding energy use and energy efficiency; promotes use of sustainable and renewable distributed energy technologies; and undertakes energy planning, including planning for microgrid development.

CCAT supports the proposal to increase the aggregate capacity of Class I renewable energy sources that electric distribution companies may build, own or operate up to two hundred megawatts. Further, CCAT supports the intent of the proposed legislation to "maximize production of in-state electricity to support the achievement of the 2020 renewable portfolio standard goals".

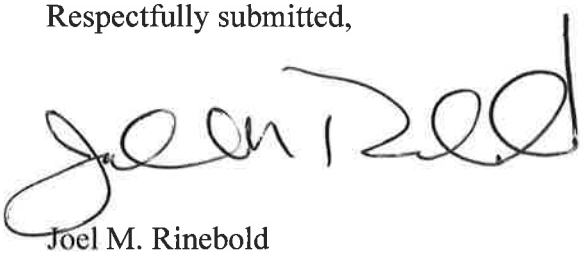
The proposed Bill could significantly benefit Connecticut's emerging hydrogen and fuel cell industry, which provides significant employment and economic activity in the State. Fuel cell technology is an ultra-clean and high efficiency combined heat and power application, which can provide Class I renewable electricity and thermal energy to the grid or end users to enhance energy reliability, and improve grid reliability and voltage stabilization. Locations where distributed generation/fuel cell installations are both technically and economically viable include a wide range of private, state, and federal facilities, including offices, manufacturing, data management, warehousing, education, food sales and services, lodging, in-patient healthcare, public order and safety, wastewater treatment plants, telecommunications sites, seaports, high-traffic airports, and electric grid service.

Currently, Connecticut has at least 600 companies that are part of the growing hydrogen and fuel cell industry supply chain in the Northeast region. Based on a 2016 IMPLAN economic analysis, Connecticut's hydrogen and fuel cell industry is estimated to have realized approximately $726

million in revenue and investment throughout the supply chain, and contributed more than $39 million in state and local tax revenue in 2015. Additionally, these companies were responsible for supplying 3,406 direct, indirect and induced jobs and over $340 million labor income.

CCAT will make itself available to the Committee and legislature upon request to assist in the refinement of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,



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