



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – March 1, 2016
Energy & Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Katie S. Dykes

Senate Bill No. 224 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAPACITY AND CRITERIA FOR CERTAIN RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 224 – An Act Concerning the Capacity and Criteria for Certain Renewable Energy Generation Facilities**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has serious concerns about the proposal and welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

This proposal would expand the authority of the electric distribution companies to build, own, or operate Class I renewable energy sources from 30 MW to 200 MW, subject to DEEP approval. DEEP opposes this proposal because it does not require the electric distribution companies to select proposals based on a competitive procurement, which may result in higher prices for ratepayers because the proposals may not be competitively priced, and additional procurement authority for clean energy resources is not needed at this time.

In the 2014 Integrated Resources Plan, DEEP recognized the value of using competitive procurements to access clean energy resources for Connecticut ratepayers through the lowest cost. DEEP has successfully used competitive solicitations to procure clean energy resources using authority under Sections 6 and 8 of Public Act 13-303, as codified in sections 16a-3f and 16a-3h of the general statutes.

DEEP continues to use existing authority under Section 7 of Public Act 13-3-3 and Public Act 15-107, as codified in sections 16a-3g and 16a-3j of the general statutes, to procure clean energy resources. Most recently, DEEP released a final request for proposals in November 2015, along with Massachusetts and Rhode Island, to procure cost-effective Class I renewable energy sources and large-scale hydropower that is 20 MW or greater. DEEP is authorized to select cost-effective clean energy resources under this solicitation to meet up to 15% of the state's electric load. Bids were submitted in January 2016 and DEEP expects to make selections in the near future.

Additionally, DEEP released a draft request for proposals in December 2015 for Class I renewable energy sources and Class III energy sources under 20 MW, passive demand response resources, and energy storage systems. This solicitation is ongoing and DEEP expects to release a final request for proposals and accept bids soon.

With these ongoing solicitations, DEEP believes that additional procurement authority is not necessary at this time. DEEP intends to evaluate the state of clean energy resources in Connecticut in the upcoming Comprehensive Energy Strategy due this year.

In summary, DEEP opposes **Senate Bill No. 224 – An Act Concerning the Capacity and Criteria for Certain Renewable Energy Generation Facilities** and will continue to use its existing authority to provide cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy for Connecticut through its competitive procurements.

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.