

Testimony of

Joel M. Rinebold

Director of Energy Initiatives

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

before

Energy and Technology Committee

March 1, 2016

Regarding

Senate Bill No. 272 - An Act Concerning the Use of Microgrid Grants and Loans for Certain Distributed Energy Generation.

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (“CCAT”), offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 272 - An Act Concerning the Use of Microgrid Grants and Loans for Certain Distributed Energy Generation.

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 provides assistance to municipalities, businesses, and manufacturers regarding energy use and development; undertakes energy planning, including assisting municipalities with energy assurance planning and microgrid development; and promotes renewable energy, including fuel cells and sustainable fuels.

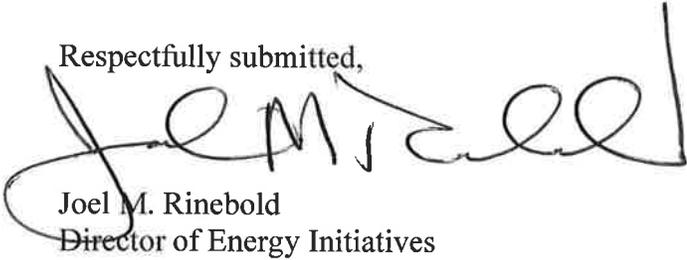
The proposed Bill would encourage and improve development of microgrids to enhance energy reliability in the State. CCAT is currently assisting municipalities within the State, with support from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to identify and implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grid, and microgrid projects. CCAT supports the use of grants or low interest loans to support the development of microgrid projects with Class I renewable energy and energy storage systems. CCAT encourages the use of fuel cells, a Class I renewable energy source, in microgrid applications to improve energy reliability and help to achieve renewable energy goals, consistent with Connecticut’s renewable portfolio standards (RPS) requirements. CCAT also supports the use of fuel cells in microgrid applications due to their high efficiency with combined heat and power and high availability factor. In addition, because they are manufactured in this state, fuel cell technology provides significant economic benefits to the State and region. Further, CCAT supports the use of hydrogen for the storage of energy from intermittent renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, and the use of that stored energy to meet demand when needed and/or for transportation applications.

The State’s Microgrid Program is of high public benefit, and serves to enhance energy reliability, support the stabilization of the electric grid, increase energy efficiency, and increase the

development of renewable and advanced distributed energy technologies that represent an emerging industry in the State.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel M. Rinebold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Joel M. Rinebold
Director of Energy Initiatives