



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. 272 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF MICROGRID GRANTS AND LOANS FOR CERTAIN DISTRIBUTED ENERGY GENERATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 272 – An Act Concerning the Use of Microgrid Grants and Loans for Certain Distributed Energy Generation**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee’s willingness to raise this bill at the request of the DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, would authorize DEEP to use bond money to be applied towards clean generation and energy storage in its microgrid program.

DEEP’s microgrid program provides grants to support local distributed energy generation for critical facilities during times of larger electricity grid outages. In 2011 and 2012 Connecticut experienced significant weather events that led to over 2,000,000 residents without electricity. Connecticut’s microgrid program was developed in the wake of those storms (Public Act 12-148) to provide reliable electrical service to critical facilities during times of electricity grid outages and increase the safety and quality of life of residents. The program funds design, engineering, wiring and interconnection costs for technically feasible microgrids that best address Connecticut’s energy security, reliability and clean energy goal.

Currently, the program’s funding is limited by statute to interconnection infrastructure. Based on feedback from stakeholders, DEEP believes that funding clean distributed generation is a barrier to participation and the program could deliver resiliency benefits to additional communities, beyond the 11 projects currently funded, if DEEP could use existing funding for clean distributed generation and energy storage to power critical facilities in case the grid goes down. This proposal would not increase the level of current funding for the microgrid program, but it would give DEEP flexibility to use the existing funding

for additional purposes that support our state energy goals. Clean distributed generation increases grid reliability and furthers the goals in our state Comprehensive Energy Strategy.

In summary, DEEP strongly supports **Senate Bill No. 272 – An Act Concerning the Use of Microgrid Grants and Loans for Certain Distributed Energy Generation** and looks forward to taking this step to support local clean distributed generation to power critical facilities in municipalities using existing resources.

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](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov) .