



FuelCell Energy

March 1, 2016

**To: The Honorable Paul R. Doyle
The Honorable Lonnie Reed
Co-Chairs, Energy and Technology Committee**

**Re: RAISED SENATE BILL NO. 272
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF MICROGRID GRANTS AND LOANS FOR
CERTAIN DISTRIBUTED ENERGY GENERATION**

FuelCell Energy, Inc. (FCE), a manufacturer of ultra-clean high efficiency fuel cell power systems with operations in Danbury and Torrington, is pleased to provide these comments with respect to Raised Senate Bills 272.

FCE employs more than 600 people worldwide in the fields of research, development manufacturing, installation, and servicing of clean energy technology. We currently generate more than 300MW of power across three continents. Here in Connecticut, there are over 500 companies in the state that are part of the hydrogen and fuel cell supply chain, contributing approximately 1,500 additional indirect jobs.

FCE is supportive of SB272, which seeks to expand the types of costs and expenses for which funds awarded under the state's grants and loans programs may be used.

So-called microgrids, which are discrete energy sources and loads capable of operating in parallel with, or independently from, the main power grid are an integral component to our state's Comprehensive Energy Strategy. Particularly since the historic storms of Hurricane Irene and the Halloween Nor'easter of 2011 that left several thousand customers without power for as much as 11 days, improving grid reliability has been a priority. And Microgrids have been central to that effort.

Public Acts 12-148 (Section 7) and 13-298 have been a success. The initial \$18 million, followed by an additional round of \$30 million, has been used to assist about a dozen projects with the design work allowed under the legislation. Among the projects awarded under this program was a FuelCell Energy 400kW fuel cell project in Woodbridge and a 1.4MW fuel cell project in Bridgeport.

This proposal will allow for additional forms of financial assistance, including low interest loans for specific types of generation facilities including Class I projects.

FCE enthusiastically supports this proposal as a natural next step to help facilitate the investment in and development of microgrid projects in Connecticut.

FuelCell Energy appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

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