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## **CGA Energy and Technology Committee**

PUBLIC HEARING Friday, March 11, 2016

### **In Opposition to:**

SB-344 (RAISED): AA REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE ADEQUACY OF ENERGY SUPPLIES IN THE STATE

SB-345 (RAISED): AA REQUIRING A STUDY ON THE DIVERSITY OF ENERGY SOURCES IN THE STATE

Submitted by Gary Bent, Climate Change Specialist, LWVCT

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**The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of 1600 members in 27 local chapters who are committed to effective public policy and the active participation of citizens in their government.**

SB-344 and SB-345 both direct the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to conduct one-year studies on energy in Connecticut: the former regarding the adequacy of energy supplies; the latter on the diversity of energy sources.

The League supports environmentally sound policies that encourage the use of renewable resources and would support SB-345 if the findings in the study directed by it were used to argue for an expansion of renewable energy sources.

However, Arthur House, Chairman of PURA, has made public comments, such as those at the Governor's Council on Climate Change, that call into question both his understanding of and commitment to renewable energy. Any findings made by him, or by staff reporting to him, could therefore be biased against expansion of renewable energy.

The League also supports planning processes that ensure the efficient use of the State's financial and natural resources. Both studies seem to duplicate much of the work of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3). For the past six months the GC3 has been working to determine what Connecticut's energy mix should be to meet its goal of 80 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A preliminary report is expected by January 2017; the PURA Chairman's reports would be duplicative and unnecessary.

We therefore urge you to vote NO on Senate Bills 344 and 345.

If, however, the Committee believes that such additional reports are necessary, we ask that they be by a committee of individuals with a wide breadth of knowledge about energy, including renewable energy.

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut appreciates the opportunity to offer our comments.