Chairperson Lonnie Reec  
Co-Chairperson Paul Fornica  
Co-Chairperson Gary Winfield  
Energy & Technology Committee  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

February 16, 2017

Re: HB 6312, AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM INCENTIVE PAYMENTS AND HB 6304, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR A DISTRICT HEATING DISTRICT

On behalf of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council (BRBC), we ask the Committee’s support of both bills HB 6312 and HB 6304.

The Bridgeport Regional Business Council represents more than 700 businesses in the region and manages the Bridgeport Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO). Since 2008, we at the BRBC have been working side by side with the City to make Bridgeport one of the greenest cities in America and transforming its image from a declining manufacturing community in the 20th Century to a smart, sustainable community in the 21st Century.

We are home to the second largest fuel cell in the world, powering more than 15,000 homes with clean, renewable energy; a 22-acre solar and fuel cell park at our closed municipal landfill and we have attracted more than a dozen new green businesses to Bridgeport, employing hundreds of people and creating millions of dollars in new tax revenues for the City.

We believe that both Bills will continue our progress by supporting Bridgeport’s District Heating Project. This Project uses waste heat from power plants to provide low temperature hot water for space heating in building and residences.

HB 6312 clarifies the District Heating grant methodology used in the Conservation and Load Management Plan to be consistent with the intent of the General Statute. In this way, the full District Heating grant amount will be correctly calculated and made available for this exciting technology.

HB 6304 is a pilot program for a small Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility that will provide waste heat to the Bridgeport Heating District and reliable power for the City using distributed power generation technology.

The Connecticut Legislature has provided the tools for Connecticut to be a recognized leader in renewable energy generation and environmental stewardship. The Bridgeport District Heating System will continue this legacy in supporting our goal to be a dynamic city of the 21st Century.

Most respectfully,

Mickey Herbert  
President and CEO

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