



Testimony of Eric Brown
Senior Counsel
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
before the
Energy & Technology Committee
February 21, 2017

H.B. No. 7036, An Act Promoting the Use of Fuel Cells for Electric Distribution System Benefits and Reliability.

CBIA supports this bill.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association (“CBIA”) is pleased support this bill authorizing electric distribution companies, with the approval of the Public Utility Regulatory Authority, to build, operate, purchase or otherwise incorporate fuel cell electricity generation into their energy supply and delivery services.

Fuel cells offer some important benefits within the Class 1 renewable universe of electricity generation. Like large-scale hydropower, fuel cells can be used for clean, continuous, baseline generation. Unlike large-scale hydro, fuel cell technology is highly scalable and can be stationed almost anywhere. And of course, fuel cells are a uniquely Connecticut-based technology supplying hundreds of jobs with the potential to provide many more.

We do recognize that this bill would authorize the use of ratepayer dollars to support expansion of fuel cell deployment in Connecticut. However, given the unique combination of benefits mentioned above, and noting that the bill specifies that PURA may only approve such support if it finds that doing so “serves the long-term interests of ratepayers, we are confident this bill will provide positive benefits for our economy and our ratepayers.

Accordingly, CBIA is pleased to support bill 7036.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and your consideration of our position.