

Legislative Committee

February 20, 2017

Energy and Technology Committee
State Capitol, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,125 members that employ over 50,000 people in and around our service area. Our chamber represents businesses from all industry sectors and of all sizes, from Fortune 500 companies to micro businesses.

The purpose of this letter today is to convey the chamber's support for Governor's H.B. 7036, An Act Promoting the Use of Fuel Cells for Electric Distribution System Benefits and Reliability.

The chamber is highly supportive of the goal of this bill. FuelCell Energy, Inc., a Connecticut-based company and member of this chamber, employs more than 400 people in the State of Connecticut in the fields of research, development manufacturing, installation, and servicing of clean energy technology. Moreover, the hydrogen and fuel cell industry supports approximately 3,400 total jobs, and 600 supply chain companies; produces \$726 million in total revenue and investment; and yielded \$40 million in state and local tax revenue in 2015.

Fuel cell power plants offer a reliable, predictable, and cost effective in-state resource. With their compact footprint they are the ideal Class I resource to be sited in locations where resiliency and local power are necessary. Furthermore, the fuel cell projects contemplated under this proposal will support high tech manufacturing and much-needed sales tax revenue to municipalities, such as Middletown, through the generation of significant local property tax payments.

Simply put, the system upgrades and improvements that can be achieved under this proposal, including grid resiliency and economic development, are wide and varying. Accordingly, the chamber wishes to make clear its support for this proposal and urges adoption of Governor's H.B. 7036.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important topic.