



Department of Economic and
Community Development

Connecticut
still revolutionary

Catherine H. Smith
Commissioner

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
2/21/17

RE: HB 7036: AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF FUEL CELLS FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BENEFITS AND RELIABILITY

Senator Winfield, Representative Reed, Senator Formica, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 7036: An Act Promoting the Use of Fuel Cells for Electric Distribution System Benefits and Reliability

As you are aware, our mission at the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

Connecticut has set an aggressive goal for reducing carbon emissions to combat climate change. The Governor has made it clear that by the year 2050 we must reduce emissions by 80 percent of 2001 levels. We believe that HB 7036 would allow an already established fuel cell industry to expand within the state, helping us reach this goal while creating new jobs and spurring economic growth.

Connecticut companies are world leaders in the fuel cell industry. The state is one of the only in the country to include fuel cells as a Class I renewable energy source and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of the top five states leading the nation in fuel cell commercialization. There are currently over 600 companies in Connecticut that are part of the state's hydrogen and fuel cell supply chain. These companies contributed \$211 million to Connecticut's gross state product and more than \$22 million in state and local tax revenue. They are also responsible for over 2,600 direct and indirect jobs. With the passage of HB 7036, we believe Connecticut will be in a better position to continue leading the world in fuel cell industry, while growing jobs and boosting the economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of DECD's thoughts on this piece of legislation.