



Testimony of Eric Brown
Senior Counsel
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
before the
Government Administration and Election Committee
February 21, 2017

Proposed Bill No. 4, An Act Concerning Municipal Electric Utilities and Municipal Electric Energy Cooperatives.

Proposed Bill No. 78, An Act Concerning Municipal Electric Utilities Creating Joint Purchasing Agencies.

Proposed Bill No. 79, An Act Repealing Sections Regarding Municipal Electric Energy Cooperatives.

Proposed Bill No. 413, An Act Making Utility Companies' Books and Financials Subject to Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act.

Proposed Bill No. 5234, An Act Concerning Municipal Electric Energy Cooperatives and Nonmember Municipal Electric Utilities.

CBIA recommends the committee not move forward with these bills at this time.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association ("CBIA") appreciates this opportunity to file comments on the above referenced bills. We understand they were largely filed in response to an incident where the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), used poor judgement with respect to holding an out-of-state directors meeting.

CMEEC has been providing several municipalities in eastern Connecticut with low energy prices and good service for many years. Businesses located in those municipalities appreciate these benefits and are concerned that legislative over-reaction may mean an erosion of them.

CBIA understands legislators are meeting with CMEEC officials and that several corrective measures have already been put in place or are in the process of being put in place. CBIA urges this dialogue continue and that practical measures continue to be implemented without legislative measures.

Accordingly, CBIA would appreciate this committee not moving forward with these bills at this time.

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