



Testimony of Eric Brown  
Senior Counsel  
Connecticut Business & Industry Association  
before the  
Energy and Technology Committee  
February 7, 2017

**S.B. No. 106, An Act Concerning Zero-Carbon Electric Generating Facilities and Achieving Connecticut's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mandated Levels .**

On behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 106.

Today, Connecticut faces many challenges as it struggles to compete in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. None stand out more prominently than our position as the least competitive state in New England as well as the nation with respect to energy costs.

Accordingly, our focus for this bill and others before you this session – and we hope increasingly for this committee and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, will be whether the proposal before you is more likely to improve or further harm Connecticut's competitive standing with respect to the cost of energy.

We believe the concept before you in this placeholder bill is more likely to lower energy costs and improve our competitiveness standing. Some of our members represented in this room today however, are concerned that this will not be the case. I have spoken with many of them in an effort to understand the basis of their concerns. And while we remain optimistic of the potential for this bill to benefit ratepayers, we accept their concerns as valid and worthy of your consideration. That is why CBIA supports having provisions added to this bill that ensure the discretionary authority it contemplates will only be exercised if it is in the best interest of Connecticut's electric ratepayers.

Others are concerned that allowing nuclear power to sell directly to electric suppliers will undercut the ability of renewable and other energy technologies to compete. Again, a valid concern deserving careful consideration. That is why CBIA supports measures being added to the bill that would ensure the RFP, or whatever instrument through which

nuclear generated electricity is procured, is carefully designed to protect the economic viability of the renewable industry.

CBIA has testified before this committee and others to support many fuels and technologies for our energy future. No organization fought harder for access and transmission into New England of natural gas from the nearby Marcellus shale, or the inclusion of large-scale hydropower into the renewable energy procurement process. We chair the joint committee of the state's Energy Efficiency and Green Bank boards, with a persistent focus on how to deploy more cost-effective renewable power and maximize energy efficiency investment. And we strongly support the growth of Connecticut's fuel cell industry as well as updating state policies on biofuels now used to cleanly heat many thousands of homes across our state. And we have stood up for other fuels and technologies as well. But today is our day – and we hope your day, to stand up for nuclear power.

To summarize, the legislature needs to adopt strategies now to lower energy costs and improve our energy competitiveness. Home grown, clean, reliable and affordable nuclear power that each year supplies thousands of well-paying Connecticut jobs, power for millions of homes, and billions in economic benefits to our state, simply must be part of those strategies. And we are confident that your committee, working with stakeholders motivated in good faith to make Connecticut a more attractive place for large-scale investment and job growth, can quickly craft a bill that addresses everyone's legitimate concerns.

CBIA welcomes the opportunity to play a constructive role in fostering that successful outcome.

Thank you for your attention and your consideration of our remarks.