

Testimony before the Connecticut General Assembly's  
Energy & Technology Committee

on

Proposed Senate Bill 106, *An Act Concerning Zero-Carbon Generating Facilities  
and Achieving Connecticut's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mandated Levels*

by

Norwich-New London Building and Construction Trades Council

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Co-chairs Reed, Winfield, Formica, ranking member Hoydick and members of the Energy & Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify/comment today on Proposed Senate Bill 106, *An Act Concerning Zero-Carbon Generating Facilities and Achieving Connecticut's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mandated Levels*. My name is Kevin T. Cwikla and I am the Secretary for the Norwich-New London Building Trades Council. I am here today to express the Norwich-New London Building Trades Council's support for Proposed Senate Bill 106.

**I. Norwich-New London Building and Construction Trades Council –**

The Norwich-New London Building and Construction Trades Council has been in existence for well over a half century and has approximately 15,000 members consisting of 13 Individual Building Trades Unions.

**II. Proposed Senate Bill 106, An Act Concerning Zero-Carbon Generating Facilities  
and Achieving Connecticut's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mandated Levels**

As a member of Norwich-New London Building Trades Council in Connecticut, we care deeply about the cost of electricity. Its high costs challenges our members individually. Last year, the Connecticut Senate passed legislation that would have created a competitive process overseen by the state to reduce retail electric rates. The measure was not acted on in the House. This committee should revisit this legislation this year.

First, the legislation is consumer friendly energy policy. Connecticut has pursued multiple competitive processes to serve retail consumers directly. However, to date, these solicitations have been limited in scope. They have only allowed Natural Gas, Large-Scale Hydro and Class I Renewable resources the ability to compete. This does not make sense. If Connecticut wants the lowest-cost, longest-term resource that also meets their environmental and economic goals, this solicitation process has to be expanded. Broadening the list to include nuclear power, among others will encourage more competition and lower costs. That is something that will benefit everyone in Connecticut that pays an electric bill, including my union members.

The legislature, and this committee in particular, deserves credit for last year's legislation and the construct of what was proposed. The concept from last year was simple. It was a competitive

process to derive low cost retail electricity. Moreover, the legislative language mandated that the overseers of the solicitation, the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Attorney General's Office, the Office of the Consumer Counsel and the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) could only proceed with selecting a winning bid if it was determined to be in ratepayers' interest. As a Labor Organization this provides me with comfort and certainty knowing I will be protected. This is smart policy and good consumer protection. In essence the legislation is a tool to try and get more cost effective electricity. However, if the state regulators do not think that is being accomplished, the state is not mandated to act.

Adding additional resources to compete, like nuclear power, will help reduce costs. On a personal note, we hope Dominion's Millstone Power Station competes hard and wins. The Norwich-New London Building Trades Council is a partner of theirs and many of our members work at the station throughout the year. In addition to normal operations, our members also support special projects and refueling outages.

This competitively designed legislation requires no state or local subsidies and gives Dominion a chance to sell Millstone's power directly to Connecticut consumers. If they are the selected bidder, Connecticut will enjoy all of Millstone's carbon-free attributes and the economic impacts that the station brings too. As a Labor Organization that works with Millstone, I know the benefits are many. Millstone produces over \$1.5 billion annually in economic benefits for Connecticut. Why would we risk losing that by preventing them the opportunity to compete to sell directly to Connecticut consumers?

For Connecticut's consumers, and my Union members, please pass this competitive legislation that will benefit ratepayers regardless who the winning bid is.

Thank you.

Kevin T. Cwikla  
Norwich-New London Building  
And Construction Trades Council