

CT CONCERNING ZERO-CARBON ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES AND ACHIEVING
CONNECTICUT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MANDATED LEVELS

I am writing in opposition to SB 106 which was proposed in the Energy & Technology Committee. This bill would weaken the renewable energy legislation in CT, put our electric grid in jeopardy and enable a bail out of a failing industry.

This legislation is tailored for the nuclear industry, and the Millstone Nuclear Plant, to take advantage of the programs that are designed to encourage renewable energy like wind, solar and geothermal energy. This would pervert the meaning of "renewable" as the current nuclear power plants use mined uranium rods which are not renewable. In addition, using the term "Zero-Carbon" leaves an opening for other greenhouse gas emissions like methane, nitrous oxide or ozone to be released into our air.

This would also make our energy grid less reliable, because with the temperatures of air and water rising, nuclear energy plants need to shut down more often. Nuclear energy plants rely on lower temperature water to produce electricity and the Millstone plant has had to shut down several times on the last couple summers because the water was too warm. In addition New England has experienced summer droughts for the last two years so that water levels have been too low for nuclear plants to run. With these conditions nuclear plants cannot be relied on to provide base load power to the New England Grid.

Finally, the nuclear industry is supporting this bill because their power plants are becoming unprofitable and too expensive to run. The cost of renewable energy like solar & wind have become inexpensive enough that it is the preferred energy for new power development. Given this competition, nuclear can no longer function in the energy marketplace without a government bailout or taxpayer support. This is not an industry that the general public wants to support.

Please vote against this bill so we can support the cleanest and least expensive energy and not prop up a failing industry.

Thank you,
Ben Martin