

March 14, 2018

Connecticut Environment Committee

RE: Public Testimony of Brookfield Renewable on Senate Bill 7 – An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency

Thank you to the Co-Chairs and members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 7. This measure would establish an interim 2030 greenhouse gas reduction mandate of 45 percent below 2001 levels, in addition to Connecticut's existing emissions reductions targets under the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).¹

Brookfield Renewable operates over 1,500MW of carbon-free resources in ISO-NE and an additional 1,000MW that can be imported to New England from New York and Quebec. Our renewable hydro, wind, solar and pumped storage resources are available to help meet the energy needs and environmental objectives of Connecticut and the region.

Brookfield Renewable supports Connecticut's efforts to decarbonize its economy and the establishment of an interim 2030 greenhouse gas reduction mandate as proposed by SB 7. As the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) noted in its Comprehensive Energy Strategy, far deeper emissions reductions are needed to meet the GWSA's 2050 target. Therefore, setting an interim 2030 carbon reduction target of at least 45 percent below 2001 levels will help drive important enhancements to state and local planning strategies and sector-specific emission reduction policies over the next decade that are necessary to place Connecticut on a sustainable path to achieving its 2050 target.

However, Connecticut must thoughtfully and deliberately balance its carbon reduction goals with electricity costs and ratepayer impacts. Therefore, Brookfield Renewable supports SB 7's language requiring that Connecticut's Integrated Resource Plan "seek to lower the cost of electricity while meeting such environmental goals and standards in the most cost-effective manner." This directive is fundamental to harmonizing and achieving the state's environmental

¹ The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) establishes emissions reductions targets of 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050.

and economic policy goals. As such, we strongly urge the Committee to define and adopt policies which will help the state meet this directive.

Specifically, Brookfield Renewable urges the Legislature – either as part of SB 7 or otherwise – to remove the Renewable Portfolio Standard’s (RPS) Class I vintage requirement for run-of-river hydropower resources of 30 MW or less. The Class I program arbitrarily limits hydropower facilities to those that began operation after July 1, 2003, thereby preventing the state from accessing all existing, cost-effective carbon-free resources. Brookfield Renewable’s modeling suggests that this single, straightforward policy change would enable the state to capture nearly \$450 million in ratepayer savings through 2030 under a 40% Class I RPS program as currently proposed by SB 9. This change would also allow Connecticut to claim the environmental attributes of existing small-scale hydropower resources and prevent the state from unnecessarily replacing readily-available, existing non-emitting resources with more costly new carbon-free resources, ensuring that emissions reductions are achieved in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 7. Brookfield Renewable would be happy to provide the Committee with any additional information on the ability of existing small-scale hydropower to help the state meet its renewable energy and environmental goals.