



Testimony of RENEW Northeast before the Environment Committee in support of

Senate Bill 7

An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency.

March 14, 2018

Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco, Representative Harding and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Francis Pullaro and I am here in my capacity as the executive director of RENEW Northeast (RENEW),¹ an association of environmental advocates and scientists and the renewable energy industry, to testify in support of the provision in Senate Bill 7 creating an additional milestone of January 1, 2030, for the state to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

This bill implements the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) recent recommendation that emissions be reduced 45 percent over 2001 levels by 2030. The GC3 determined that significant decarbonization of the grid, coupled with electrification of transportation and building heating, is required to meet Connecticut's required emissions reductions.

The GC3 has observed that there are multiple options for achieving GHG reductions. Leaders at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Public Utilities Regulatory Authority are recommending the state prioritize mitigation measures based on their ability to deliver GHG emission reductions in the most cost-effective manner possible; and that the state should focus on implementing proven, scalable strategies. RENEW agrees. The deployment of utility-scale renewable resources is essential to meet this cost-effectiveness objective as they are the lowest cost form of new GHG-free generation available to us today. This committee can help increase the amount of new utility-scale resources in the state by revising state laws and policies to stop holding utility-scale renewable resources to a higher standard than other forms of lawful development and that diminish the opportunity for cost-effective, clean energy deployment and economic growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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¹ The comments expressed herein represent the views of RENEW and not necessarily those of any particular member of RENEW. **About RENEW:** Based in Madison, Connecticut, RENEW is a non-profit association uniting the renewable energy industry and environmental advocates whose mission involves coordinating the ideas and resources of its members with the goal of increasing environmentally sustainable energy generation in the Northeast from the region's abundant, indigenous renewable resources.