



March 1, 2018

Testimony Governor's Energy Bill

*S.B. No. 9 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE.

Thank you for supporting renewable energy in the State of Connecticut. Specifically, thank you for opening the dialogue for smaller projects that are <2MW. Agricultural anaerobic digester(AD) projects have been left out of recent renewable energy DEEP RFP with the lack of recognizing AD projects below 1 MEG. This excludes the majority of CT Dairy farms from participating in this DEEP RFP.

AG-Grid Energy LLC continues to pave the road for on-farm agricultural anaerobic digesters producing renewable electricity. We continue to support smaller to mid-sized farms and diversification of farm revenues in order to enhance farm sustainability. Aside from the renewable energy produced by farm AD, substantial benefits exist for CT, through on farm co-digestion, as a means to help deal with organic recycling of solid food waste which currently go to landfills.

AG-Grid Energy LLC and Fort Hill Ag-Grid LLC is reviewing the Governors Bill and we would like to reflect upon it in this testimony. The successful sale of electricity by these farm AD projects is critical to the success of the projects.

- We are observing that electric account numbers are being limited to 5. This means that we have to look for large accounts to be able to sell all of our electricity. From the perspective of the State and Utilities, this may not seem to be an issue as you think there are enough large accounts in the States. But the projects such as ours that are soliciting local community support around the farms, most Towns and Municipalities are small. In order to have a successful project, we need to sell our electricity and need the following. We ask you to take away the limitation of the number of meters so that we can sell to smaller towns who are interested in purchasing renewable electricity. If CT is to get to 40% RPS by 2030 – we would need to sell to all of the towns and municipalities – not just the big ones.
- We are encouraged to see the State meters are included in Governors Bill. We would like this concept expanded to also amend the Ag VNM to include State meters. We already have State electrical accounts interested in purchasing electricity from us. But current Ag VNM does not allow State accounts. It is critical for us to have the opportunity to sell electricity to State accounts.
- Addition of critical facility accounts as eligible accounts is very much appreciated, however, connecting the critical accounts to microgrid is extremely limiting. There are only a handful of critical facilities that are connected to micro-grids. We think that the critical facility accounts should be included without limitation on number of accounts or those connected with micro-grids.
- In other states in New England, such as Massachusetts and Vermont, there are no limitations to the number of electric accounts. If the Class 1 facility is less than 2 MW, why do we also need a limit on the number of electric accounts. There already is a cap on the amount of electricity that the facility is producing. That is the way utilities in Massachusetts are managing the net-metering currently. In addition, the net-metering owner is allowed to modify the % of electricity allocation twice a year. In other New England states, there are unlimited accounts available for renewable electricity to be sold to. We need these features in order to remain competitive with surrounding states.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support in developing this industry and support in saving energy dollars for public electricity accounts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rashi Akki'.

Rashi Akki

CEO & Founder

AG-Grid Energy LLC

Peter Orr

Peter Orr

Farm Owner

Fort Hill Farms