

SB 7 An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency
Environment Committee, March 14, 2018

Testimony by Joel N. Gordes,
38 Brookmoor Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107, (860) 561-0566

Co-Chairs Kennedy and Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Committee Members and staff, my name is Joel Gordes. I am an independent energy consultant but representing only myself. In 1990, as Vice-Chair of the [then] Energy & Public Utilities Committee, I was one of five principal co-authors of Connecticut's first climate change legislation, PA 90-219 AAC Global Warming.

With some suggested amendments below, I support this bill.

In lines 42-43 where it currently says:

The Integrated Resources Plan shall seek to lower the cost of electricity while meeting such environmental goals and standards in the most cost-effective manner.

This should be amended to include the underlined language below:

The Integrated Resources Plan shall seek to lower the cost of electricity while meeting such environmental goals and standards in the most cost-effective manner including, but not limited to, avoided transmission and distribution costs, reliability, resiliency, market price suppression, avoided costs of compliance with environmental and public health requirements, benefits for low-income customers and other cobenefits,..

Likewise in lines 50 to 54 where it currently says:

...provide any analysis and recommendations necessary to guide the state's energy policy to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, as established in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, in the most cost-effective manner..

This should also be amended to include the underlined language below:

..provide any analysis and recommendations necessary to guide the state's energy policy to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, as established in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, in the most cost-effective manner including, but not limited to, avoided transmission and distribution costs, reliability, resiliency, market price suppression, avoided costs of compliance with environmental and public health requirements, benefits for low-income customers and other cobenefits,..

What these additions do is insure that not just costs of options are used in the analyses for technologies but also benefits that often are under articulated but have real value and need to be added to the equation for any meaningful outcome. In past documents, such as the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, DEEP has been remiss in recognizing many value streams offered by renewable energy resources which other states have already conducted detailed studies on and accepted. We should follow suit.