Energy and Technology Committee:

Testifying in SUPPORT:

H.B. No. 7156 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE WIND

S.B. No. 875 AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT’S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Good afternoon Chairman Arconti, Chairman Needleman, and the distinguished members of the Energy & Technology Committee,

My name is Harry Boardsen from Bridgeport Boatworks. It is my pleasure to be here today to testify in SUPPORT of both HB7156 An Act concerning the procurement of energy derived from offshore wind and SB875 An Act expanding Connecticut’s offshore wind energy portfolio.

I am the owner of Bridgeport Boatworks, a new harbor front business located at 731 Seaview Ave in Bridgeport Connecticut. I own the Boatworks along with my wife Abbey, with whom I also co-manage Noank Shipyard and Seaport Marine with, located respectively here in Noank and Mystic Connecticut. We are a family owned and operated business and employee roughly 50 people throughout the year. We have been family owned since 1983.

We are a multifaceted waterfront operation containing marina facilities for nearly 300 vessels. These facilities include wet slips, mechanical services, restoration facilities, gift and novelty shops, yacht brokerages, residences, and waterfront fuel sale operations. Additionally, our properties include waterfront dining with the restaurant Red 36 and when combined with our marina operations employ roughly 200 people throughout the year.

The Boatworks is housed on roughly 16 acers in Bridgeport. Opening in July of 2018. Our decision to expand to Bridgeport came from many factors. The location’s capacity, access to labor, and port’s infrastructure were but a few of the attractive characteristics. Characteristics that may also lay the building blocks of an opportunity rarely seen.
At this moment, Connecticut could position itself as a leader in renewable energy in New England for decades to come. The procurement bills before this committee are a great first step to expand Connecticut’s procurement of renewable energy. A step we can all agree is vitally important for Connecticut, our Country and our Planet. The byproduct of this renewable opportunity is the construction of commercial infrastructure that will produce jobs, taxes, and replicate the opportunity for Bridgeport that the port of New London is beginning to enjoy.

Wind energy targets set forth by the states of New England will require port operations that will play a critical role within the supply chain of Wind Energy. In many cases the port may be used as a base for assembly, handling, and manufacturing. In all cases, the port will act as a hub through which components, structures, and turbines making up a wind farm must pass. Meaning a first critical step in the construction of a wind farm must be the selection of one or more base ports.

In Connecticut, the first renewable proposal awarded the offshore wind sector with an allotment that will initially activate port plans for the City of New London’s pier operations. HB 7156 and SB 875 are wonderful follow-ons to the initial renewable procurement. With procurements in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey; port operations will be vital foundational components of a new offshore wind industry in which Connecticut is poised to be a major participant.

Offshore wind has been producing green energy in Europe since the first wind farm was constructed in Denmark in 1991. This industry, new to the United States, needs infrastructure specifically here in New England. Geographically, Connecticut is perfectly positioned to host world class ports of operations for the wind industry. Our central location, harbor infrastructure, access to labor, and proximity to lease areas make Connecticut a perfect operations location. In Bridgeport, we’d like to continue what Congress has jump started in the port of New London. I’m here today with Vineyard Wind, our development partner, to express what a wonderful and additional opportunity Connecticut has in the harbor of Bridgeport. It’s simply a great choice to build a solid foundation upon which Connecticut’s wind industry may be constructed. Deep water, wide harbor, no bridges, and an industrial spirit make Bridgeport a solid choice for this industry.

I am here in wholehearted support of HB 7156 and SB 875 as a giant step towards Connecticut’s construction of a renewable energy portfolio and as a believer in our State as a possible leader in this innovative industry. I’d like to thank the committee leadership and Governor Lamont for raising these proposals. We look forward to working with all parties involved to accomplish a greener future.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak before your Committee today and will happily answer any questions you may have. Thank you

Harry Boardsen- Principal: Bridgeport Boatworks;
GM: Noank Shipyard/Seaport Marine