

Public Hearing – February 21, 2019
Energy and Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Katie S. Dykes

S.B. No. 600 – AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY STORAGE RESOURCES AND WIND AND LARGE-SCALE HYDROPOWER FACILITIES.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding S.B. No. 600 – An Act Concerning Energy Storage Resources and Wind and Large-Scale Hydropower Facilities.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony. While DEEP supports the concept in this proposal, which would require leveraging of existing energy storage resources in programs for wind and large-scale hydropower facilities, DEEP is opposed to restrictions that limit the flexibility DEEP needs in its competitive procurements to ensure that selected proposals meet the best interests of ratepayers.

DEEP is supportive of using its existing procurement authority for grid-scale clean energy resources to attract competitive proposals that include energy storage, provided the addition of energy storage maintains a positive cost/benefit ratio and is in the best interest of ratepayers. In its most recent Zero Carbon Request for Proposals, DEEP selected two proposals that paired solar with energy storage. DEEP looks forward to harnessing the best practices involved in storage, including integration, charging, and dispatch of these resources, to better evaluate them in future requests for proposals.

While DEEP is supportive of the concept of this proposal, DEEP would oppose restrictions that limit the flexibility DEEP needs in its procurement authority. To ensure projects are in the best interest of ratepayers, any procurement run by DEEP should: be designed to meet needs identified in energy policy planning documents like the Integrated Resources Plan and/or Comprehensive Energy Strategy; have the flexibility to respond to the rapid developments and opportunities in the clean energy market; and ensure robust competition to deliver quality projects and attractive pricing.

DEEP would welcome the opportunity to work further with the Committee on this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Mandi Careathers, DEEP's Legislative Liaison, at Mandi.Careathers@ct.gov.