



49 DePaolo Drive · Southington, CT · 06489

Testimony of Brian Paganini, Vice President and Managing Director

Quantum Biopower, LLC

Before the Connecticut Energy and Technology Committee

February 21, 2019

S.B. No. 845 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Fonfara, Representative Allie-Brennan, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

My name is Brian Paganini and I am Vice President and Managing Director of Quantum Biopower. Quantum is the developer, owner and operator of the state's only electricity producing anaerobic digester. The Southington facility processes 40,000 tons per year of food waste, by aiding the organic breakdown of the material. It captures methane gas produced from the decomposition process and uses that gas to produce one megawatt of renewable electricity. The electricity is fed to the grid and used to power several Southington Town buildings using the virtual net metering program.

I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 845, which would authorize the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to procure up to ten megawatts of energy from anaerobic digesters. If these purchases were limited to facilities within the state, it would allow for developers to manage more than 300,000 tons of food waste, making a significant dent in diverting the more than 500,000 tons of food waste produced in Connecticut each year.

By facilitating a separate procurement process for the energy from anaerobic digestion, the Department is free to investigate the desirability to purchase either electricity or renewable natural gas (RNG). This is a decision that should be made with the benefit of research and dialogue with the Department, the utilities and other jurisdictions that have decided to procure RNG from digesters, such as Southern California Gas and National Grid.

Along with the flexibility to procure RNG, Quantum Biopower is respectfully asking the Committee to consider including a provision that would establish a docket at PURA to set clear gas interconnection standards that would enable investors to design their systems – and price their systems – accordingly. We understand that the gas companies own the distribution system and would quite naturally seek a detailed proceeding, strict standards and assurances. It is proper that all parties work together to inform that docket and take the necessary time to establish ground rules.



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There is no doubt about the positive impact food diversion and recycling is having on Connecticut's environment and economy. The food diversion mandate passed for large generators are only starting to be realized. New, local jobs and cleaner air, water and fuel production are only just beginning. For these reasons, Quantum supports SB 845 and is happy to see the desire for more anaerobic digestion to compliment the state's detailed plans for a renewable energy future and reduced carbon footprint.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of the Senate Bill 845.