

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7156

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM

Title: OFFSHORE WIND.

Vote Date: 3/14/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/26/2019

File No.: 192

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Energy and Technology Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Anne Meiman Hughes, 135th Dist.

Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Energy and Technology recognized the economic, geographically unique location and positive environmental impacts that increasing the procurement of offshore wind would have on Connecticut and put forward a bill that would increase procurement of offshore wind to 2000 megawatts. The bill will help CT fulfill its promise to increase reliance on renewable energy resources outlined in Senate Bill 9 from 2018 as well as bolster job growth in the industry and finally attract private investment in the infrastructure needed to deliver and generate the energy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#)

(DEEP): DEEP testified in support to HB-7156, the department believes HB-7156 "would benefit, however, from ensuring that any solicitation authorized under the proposal should be in line with an identified energy policy need in the Integrated Resources Plan, and should allow for more than 45 days for PURA to review any agreements resulting from solicitation." They outlined their support for 7156 in their testimony for SB 875 stating that the procurement of offshore wind energy would generate jobs and help in our commitment towards a cleaner energy network. They also stated how the offshore procurement will help us align with the surrounding states which have experienced the financial benefits of offshore wind.

[Elin Swason Katz, Commissioner, Office of Consumer Counsel \(OCC\)](#): OCC “generally supports” SB-875; the department remarks on how SB-875 calls for procurement to take place by DEEP along with PURA. These procurements have shown "up to fifteen percent of the load distributed by the state's electric distribution companies" are produced by offshore wind. OCC states that the decision to increase the procurement of offshore wind energy will benefit ratepayers and may reveal that the raised price will be acceptable. They also stated that CT has significant goals for carbon free energy production and this bill could help with these goals.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Pamela Arifian, Director, United Church of Christ Northeast Environmental Justice Center](#): Multiple constituents testified in support of HB-7156. Specifically, Pamela Arifian, a resident of Sharon, and John Humphries, an Executive Director of CT Roundtable are in favor of HB-7156. Both of them agree with the committee’s decision “for up to 2000 MW of offshore wind”, however, Humphries states “HB-7156 should require procurements of no less than 400 MW every two or three years; accumulating to no less than 2,000 MW, in the aggregate, by 2030.” Numerous constituents agree.

Arifian along with others expresses their support for labor provisions. They disclose their concern with the bill not including any environmental protections and suggest a mandate requiring DEEP to use management practices to minimize the impact on wildlife, natural resources, and ecosystems. The main focus constituents have in their testimony; specifically, Humphries is reducing “our carbon footprint.”

- [Barbara Backman](#)
- [Janet Bellamy](#)
- [Gary Bent](#)
- [David M. Cusick](#)
- [Robert L. Dickson](#)
- [Michael Duffy](#)
- [Girard Hayes](#)
- [Elisabeth Holder](#)
- [John Humphries, Executive Director, CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs](#)
- [Jennifer G. Kleindienst](#)
- [Jane Latus](#)
- [Thomas Levine](#)
- [Andrew Lopez](#)
- [Susan Miller](#)
- [Peter Millman, Member, People’s Action for Clean Energy \(PACE\)/ Eastern CT Green Action \(ECGE\)](#)
- [David C. Newtown](#)
- [Grace O’Connor](#)
- [Carole Oborn](#)
- [David R. Robinson](#)
- [Chris Schweitzer](#)
- [Julia R. Sherman](#)
- [Chris Weedon](#)

Harry Boardsen, Owner, Bridgeport Boatworks: Harry Boardsen testified in full support of HB-71565, as well as encourages Vineyard Wind offshore wind farm. Boardsen and his wife own a family owned business in Bridgeport CT, as well as co-manage Noank Shipyard and Seaport Marine located in Noank and Mystic CT. Their company looks forward to the future of HB-7156.

Claire Coleman, Climate and Energy Attorney, Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE): CFE strongly supports HB-1756. Within CFE's testimony states that according to the organization, Acadia Center, "estimates that generating 30% of our electricity from offshore wind could create about 4,000 jobs." The organization makes a point to ask the Committee to be conscious of any possible negative impacts to ocean eco-systems or wildlife. During Claire Coleman's verbal testimony they went into detail about offshore wind cost-efficiency, the opportunity for new jobs and economic growth; as well as, offshore wind is more economical and environmentally responsible compared to offshore drilling.

Samuel Eaton, Director of Business Development, Eversource Energy: Eversource is in full support of HB-1756. The company and their partner Orsted anticipate a future of offshore wind within the Northeast part of Connecticut.

Ann Gadwah, Chapter Chair, Sierra Club Connecticut: Sierra Club fully supports the labor provisions of the HB-1756. Although the organization advocates that the state "set itself on a path of at least 2,000 MW of offshore wind by 2030" As well as recommends, the legislation should require the DEEP Commissioner to put into consideration the possible outcomes and avoid any impacts on wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems, and any existing water-dependent uses. They also state that the electric distributors should include more options for renewable energy beyond what is currently mandated.

Kimberly Glassman, Director, Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut (FFC): FFC supports HB-7156; the industry believes it ties good jobs to environmentally friendly initiatives. They also support the bill because it will support apprenticeship programs for skilled labor jobs.

Daniel McInerney, Organizer, Connecticut Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) /International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW): Daniel McInerney testified in support of HB-7156, and ultimately they would like to see HB-7156 and SB-875 merged into one bill. "The expansion of 1,000 megawatts in the Governors Bill to the 2,000 megawatts in the House Bill and the mandate for procurement in the Governor's Bill which is not in the House Bill." McInerney thinks that larger megawatt procurement will open the door for competition and increase opportunity for local economic growth.

Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ: Michele Mudrick wrote their testimony on behalf of the 233 congregations and more than 67,000 people in Connecticut's churches in support of HB-7156.

Francis Pullaro, Executive Director, RENEW Northeast (RENEW): RENEW offered testimony in support of HB-1756. Similarly to CFE's testimony, RENEW provides four main points on why they are in favor of HB-7156.

- I. – Offshore wind is a cost-effective approach to meeting Connecticut’s environmental and economic development goals.
- II. – Offshore wind has the potential to provide significant economic development benefits.
- III. – Offshore wind increases grid reliability and lowers emissions during peak Winter Periods.
- IV. – A long-term procurement strategy will lower the costs and increase economic development benefits.

Joel M. Rinebold, Director of Energy, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT): CCAT supports the development and use of Class I renewable energy for residents of the State. CCAT suggests that DEEP leverage energy storage resources to expand using a variety of storage units to fully utilize our clean energy opportunities. CCAT has experience with working with the energy storage marketplace and hopes to be part of implementing this technology to maximize energy generation.

David Roche, President, Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council: David Roche represents over 10,000 workers throughout the State, and they are in support of SB-7156. They State that company wants to ensure that skilled labor will be utilized in the construction projects and appreciates how these projects will help support our state approved apprenticeship programs.

Amy McLean Salls, Connecticut Director and Senior Policy Advocate, Acadia Center: Acadia Center testifies in support of HB-7156, however, urges the bill be modified to require DEEP to obtain 2,000 MW of offshore wind, thus providing a boost to the State’s economy and labor market. “Acadia Center supports a mandate for 2,000 MW of offshore wind, or 30% of the state’s total consumption, by 2030, as well as a procurement schedule of no less than 400 MW every two years.” The organization’s testimony, as well as Amy McLean’s verbal statement both explained how neighboring states, such as New York, and Massachusetts are pursuing an offshore wind mandate, hence Connecticut needs authority to join other states as well. Arcadia center also supports the provisions of the bill that support labor groups and skilled labor for the construction projects.

Erich Stephens, Chief Development Officer, Vineyard Wind: Vineyard Wind strongly supports HB-1756; the company believes there are many benefits demonstrated by the company’s “first 800 MW project.” Vineyard Wind explains that the state’s ports can amplify the economic development potential, mainly, focusing on Bridgeport’s offshore wind future. Within Vineyard Wind’s written testimony they state three critical features for their Bridgeport wind development plan.

- I. – Installation of a lift crane to lift wind turbine components from ocean-going vessels, and then back on to the installation vessels during construction.
- II. – Creation of a significant component work and storage area, which could also allow fabrication work to be carried out in Bridgeport.
- III. – Upgrades to the dockside and piers to allow access to the port.

Tom Swan, Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG): CCAG testifies in support of HB-7156; Swan believes the energy produced by the turbines will be a potential for job creation and high economic development.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Daniel Collins, Director of Government Affairs, New England Power Generations Associations, Inc. (NEPGA):

NEPGA opposes HB-7156; the organization states HB-7156 would increase out-of-market procurements, which would further displace cost-effective generation in the wholesale marketplace, and expose consumers to the risks of long-term contracts to support resources needed for reliability. NEPGA suggests that a better way would be to work with states in New England and set a price on carbon dioxide emissions for electricity. NEPGA urges the committee to weigh in on the negative impacts "as it would 'require' DEEP to solicit up to 2,000 MW of offshore wind resources." Their organization's written testimony explains that HB-7156 would "carve-out a large swath of the market and insulate these state-supported offshore wind place the competitive markets." Throughout the organization's testimony, it goes into detail about the negative impacts of additional state-supported offshore wind procurements.

Joseph Gilbert, Owner of Empire Fisheries of Milford: Joseph Gilbert testified in opposition of SB-875. Gilbert and their industry's co-workers are in support of SB-875's & HB7156's intention for a "cleaner less carbon emitting energy source." However, they are conscious of the fisheries and the importance of protecting their habitat. Gilbert's written testimony goes into detail about the potential unintended adverse effects of developing offshore wind projects. In Gilbert's statement he discloses a list of fishermen's requests to follow for the future projects and hopes the two can work together to move forward the interests of both parties.

Reported by: Elizabeth Blackman

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