

# Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-875

AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

**Title:** PORTFOLIO.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/26/2019

**File No.:** 229

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Governor's Office  
Energy and Technology Committee

## **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11th Dist.  
Sen. Bob Duff, 25th Dist.  
Rep. Joe Aresimowicz, 30th Dist.  
Rep. Matthew Ritter, 1st Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill seeks to implement an expanded structure for the procurement of Offshore Wind Energy in order to meet the Governor's budget recommendations. The bill also wants to establish using the prevailing wage for the projects. Finally, the bill seeks to strengthen the state's commitment to climate change mitigation goals through the expansion of procurement of Class 1 and Class 2 renewable energy sources, specifically Offshore Wind.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**[John W. Betoski, Acting Chair, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority:](#)** Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) fully supports SB-875. According to PURA, the company "believes that section 1 of the proposal will provide the Commissioner of DEEP the flexibility to structure solicitations in a manner that could provide maximum value to ratepayers for clean energy procurements." Thus, PURA guarantees that offshore wind will be a reliable energy source.

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

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offered testimony in support to SB-875, as a means to allow the State to meet the “Global Warming Solutions Act,” as well as, incite in-state economic growth by using zero-carbon electricity. The department’s testimony goes into detail about neighboring states and who have made commitments/ investments in offshore wind. Furthermore, DEEP is conscious of interest of ratepayers, economic development, and policy goals aimed towards “Comprehensive Energy Strategy” and “Integrated Resources Plan.” DEEP believes that the multi-resource authority to monitor electric distribution companies works effectively and the increased authority towards the bill proposes will work successfully.

**[Elin Swason Katz, Commissioner, Office of Consumer Counsel:](#)** Office of Consumer Counsel 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.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**[Pamela Arifian, Director, United Church of Christ Northeast Environmental Justice](#)**

**[Center:](#)** Multiple constituents testified in support of SB-875. Specifically, Pamela Arifian, a resident of Sharon, is in favor of SB-875. Arifian agrees with the committee’s decision “for up to 2000 MW of offshore wind”, however, recommends the bill should be modified to require DEEP to obtain 2,000 MW by 2030. 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, John 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/ Eastern CT Green Action](#)**

- [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 support of SB-875, as well as encourages Vineyard Wind. 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 SB-875.

**[Claire Coleman, Climate and Energy Attorney, Connecticut Fund for the Environment](#)**: Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) strongly supports SB-875. Within CFE's testimony states that according to Synapse Energy Economic, "offshore wind is a significant clean, renewable energy source that, once built, will increase the reliability of our electric grid produce enough energy to meet winter peak demand." 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 SB-875. Their company and their partner Orsted anticipate a future of offshore wind for New London and Connecticut.

**[Ann Gadwah, Chapter Chair, Sierra Club Connecticut](#)**: Sierra Club supports the labor provisions of the SB-875. 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.

Joined by:

- [Samantha Dynowski, State Director](#)
- [Maratha Klein, Executive Committee](#)

**[Kimberly Glassman, Director, Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut](#)**: Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut (FFC) supports SB-875; 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 /International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](#)**: Daniel McInerney testified in support of HB-7156, and they testified on behalf of Connecticut Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) /International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The organizations would ultimately like to see SB-875 and HB-7156 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 SB-875.

**Francis Pullaro, Executive Director, RENEW Northeast:** RENEW offered testimony in support of SB-875. Similarly to CFE’s testimony, RENEW provides four main points on why they are in favor of SB-875.

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.:** Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (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 make full use of the intermittent renewable generation and bolster the state’s clean energy economy.

**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 this legislation. The company wants to ensure that the construction of the offshore wind turbines will utilize skilled workers who have enrolled in the state-approved apprenticeship programs.

**Amy McLean Salls, Connecticut Director and Senior Policy Advocate, Acadia Center:** Acadia Center testifies in support of SB-875, 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.

**Erich Stephens, Chief Development Officer, Vineyard Wind:** Vineyard Wind strongly supports SB-875; 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**: Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG) testifies in support of SB-875; however, the organization proposes several changes to the bill. Which includes, make the 2,000 MW threshold a mandated floor for procurement not a cap with defined deadlines, environmental protections, and explaining the ability to work with other states in process of procuring energy. CCAG also urges the committee to strengthen SB-875 in a manner that meets the urgency of the moment.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Daniel Collins, Director of Government Affairs, New England Power Generations Associations, Inc.**: New England Power Generations Associations (NEPGA) opposes SB-875; the organization states SB-875 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 an improved 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 of added offshore wind installments and to allow the electricity markets to continue to supply a more cost-effective energy supply in the state.

**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 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 future projects.

**Reported by: Elizabeth Blackman**

**Date: 3/21/19**