Testimony for the Committee on Energy and Technology

In Support of
H.B. No. 7156 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE WIND

and In Support of
S.B. No. 875 AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Submitted by Julia R. Sherman
February 26, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. No. 7156, An Act Concerning the Procurement Of Energy Derived From Offshore Wind and S.B. No. 875 An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio.
The following points need no further explanation, so I did not edit them, but I must add that I have been working since 1970, and the first Earth Day to get our country off of fossil fuels and excessive fossil products in our environment. We owe these changes to the next generation!

- In 2018, the General Assembly approved landmark climate and energy bills setting more aggressive targets for both greenhouse gas emissions reduction (45% below 2001 levels by 2030) and renewable energy (40% by 2030). Both bills passed by large bipartisan majorities.
- Governor Lamont has called for an even more aggressive timetable that envisions Connecticut becoming carbon neutral and securing 100% of its power from renewable sources by 2050. Offshore wind will play an essential role in making that vision a reality.
- I support the Committee's call for up to 2000 MW of offshore wind, but the bill should be amended to make that a mandate requiring DEEP to procure 2000 MW by 2030. MA and NY have solid commitments like that, and if we don't send a strong message to the industry that Connecticut wants to be a regional hub for offshore wind staging and supply chain activities then those jobs will go elsewhere.
- I support both bills' labor provisions that will ensure the jobs created by these investments are high-quality jobs with health and safety protections.
- I am concerned that neither bill incorporates any environmental protections. At a minimum, the legislation should require the DEEP Commissioner to consider whether submitted proposals "contain explicit descriptions of the best management practices to be employed, as informed by the latest science at the time of a proposal, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems, and traditional or existing water dependent uses.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on these bills.

Julia R. Sherman
43 Pine Woods Lane
Mansfield Center, CT 06250