

March 5, 2020

Energy and Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

**In Support of H.B. No. 5351, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND TO INCENTIVIZE AND IMPLEMENT ELECTRIC ENERGY STORAGE RESOURCES and
In Support of H.B. No. 5348, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION**

Honorable Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am a retired scientist. I have been struck by urgent assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other climate agencies in the last 1 ½ years, stating that the world's climate status is in critical condition. They agree with the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero optimally within 20 years.

H.B. No. 5349 promotes this goal. It declares that it be Connecticut state policy to encourage deployment of 1000 MW of electric storage by the end of 2030; to initiate a program, with funding, for storage linked to the electric grid; and authorizes demonstration projects in this regard.

As our state fulfils its renewable portfolio standards and emission reduction targets in coming years it becomes imperative to provide means to even out the intermittency that characterizes Class I renewable sources. Electric storage technologies provide the needed means to do so. This bill promotes development and deployment of storage in our state.

H.B. No. 5348 directs the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to conduct a study regarding the creation of community choice aggregation (CCA) programs, and to report on the findings by July 2021. If a municipality adopts CCA it is empowered to source electricity from the most advantageous provider, including the prospects of obtaining a reduced bulk rate for the electricity, and of providing renewable energy to the municipality. This would promote the goals of Connecticut's global warming and Renewable Portfolio Standard statutes.

I strongly urge the Committee to approve H.B. No. 5349 and H.B. No. 5348, and to report them favorably for consideration by the General Assembly.

Respectfully,

Henry E. Auer

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