

Testimony of Paul J. Corey on behalf of BNE Energy Inc.
before the Energy and Technology Committee
On Raised Bill No. 5351,
*An Act Concerning Certain Programs and to
Incentivize and Implement Electric Energy Storage Resources.*
March 5, 2020

Chairmen Needleman and Arconti, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5351, *An Act Concerning Certain Programs and to Incentivize and Implement Electric Energy Storage Resources*. My name is Paul Corey and I am here on behalf of BNE Energy to support the adoption of state policy that encourages the deployment of one thousand megawatts of electric energy storage by December 31, 2030, and that allows the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to solicit proposals for demonstration projects that are collocated with electric energy storage derived from Class I renewable energy sources between two to twenty megawatts as provided for in Section 3 of the Act. BNE also strongly supports the criteria in Section 3(b) that encourages the selection of demonstration projects in Connecticut that have “positive impacts on the state's economic development.” Carbon free collocated demonstration projects located in Connecticut have the following benefits:

- Supports Connecticut energy independence
- Instate Class I renewable sources
- Carbon free generation available for peak demand
- Enhancements to the local utility distribution system
- Connecticut jobs and economic development
- Local property tax
- Connecticut state income tax

Electric battery storage technology has the potential to unleash vast amounts of clean renewable electricity derived from Class I renewable energy sources with zero emissions such as wind and solar. Energy storage also has the capability to curb the deployment of and reliance on conventional electric generation from fossil fuels including oil, coal and natural gas by increasing the generation capacity of carbon free sources available to supply power during peak demand.

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BNE currently owns and operates Connecticut's only wind farm consisting of two 2.85 megawatt wind turbines located on approximately 80 acres in Colebrook, CT known as Wind Colebrook South. We power approximately 1,500 homes on average annually. We are also working on installing a third wind turbine at the site by the end of this year that will double the output of renewable energy from the project as wind turbine technology continues to improve. With the addition of the third turbine, Wind Colebrook South will power over 3,000 homes annually, much more than enough renewable energy to power the entire Town of Colebrook (656 households in 2000). Wind Colebrook South also provides numerous and significant economic, environmental and societal benefits by reducing the dependence on fossil fuels, supporting economic development and jobs, and by paying substantial property taxes to the Town of Colebrook that contributes to the needs of the local community such as education, fire, healthcare and emergency services. Wind Colebrook South will also pay several million dollars in income taxes to the State of Connecticut over the life of the project. These substantial benefits would not be realized for Connecticut residents if the project was located in another state.


BNE also has the opportunity to expand the project by collocating up to three more wind turbines, several megawatts of solar and battery storage technology as a demonstration project to prove the enormous potential benefits offered by collocating Class I renewable resources with electric energy storage located in the State of Connecticut. Collocating Connecticut's only wind farm with battery storage technology also offers the unique opportunity that can help Connecticut lead the way by demonstrating the benefits of collocating wind and energy storage so that it can be much more widely deployed as significantly more offshore wind capacity is installed in the coming years.

BNE appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in support of collocating Class I renewable sources with electric energy storage technology with the focus on encouraging the deployment of in-state demonstration projects. We believe these policies and objectives will deliver significant economic, environmental and societal benefits to the residents of the great State of Connecticut.

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Respectfully submitted,


Paul J. Corey
Chairman