

**Testimony
of
AVANGRID (UI, SCG, CNG)
Before
The ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Regarding**

**RAISED HOUSE BILL 5351
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROGRAMS TO INCENTIVIZE AND
IMPLEMENT ELECTRIC ENERGY STORAGE RESOURCES**

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT
March 5, 2020**

I thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on **Raised House Bill 5351, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROGRAMS TO INCENTIVIZE AND IMPLEMENT ELECTRIC ENERGY STORAGE RESOURCES.**

We support a policy in Connecticut that would support the use energy storage to minimize electric system costs, maintain electric reliability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We believe battery storage technology has the potential to contribute to those objectives with the appropriate applications. We support Raised House Bill 5351 with the following modifications.

While energy storage resources have the potential to provide distribution system benefits, that potential can only be realized through the charging and discharging of the batteries at the

appropriate time. We would suggest that regardless of the type of installation, in any installation supported by ratepayers, the electric distribution company serving that area should have monitoring and control of those batteries. The EDCs have the best situational awareness of the electric grid, and would operate the batteries to meet their primary objective of delivering safe, reliable, and efficient electric service. In addition, as the distribution companies come to rely on battery technology, there will need to be contract or tariff language to insure the continued operation of the batteries if they are customer owned or notice to the distribution company that the battery will no longer be available to meet reliability needs.

Section 2 calls for the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to develop and implement a program or programs for electric storage systems that provide benefits that may include customer, local, or community benefits. We support the reporting requirements of section 2(b), since we believe that there is a very complicated convergence of costs and potential benefits that needs to be explored before battery storage technologies can be implemented in a broad manner. There needs to be a full understanding of rate designs, local distribution system needs and solutions as well as market designs to successfully integrate battery storage systems to meet the objectives in this Raised Bill. How the streams of benefits would flow, and to whom also needs to be explored. While section 3 has explicit cost recovery language for the distribution companies, section 2 has no such language. Since it would appear that some or all of these programs would fall outside of traditional ratemaking principles, we request that explicit cost recovery similar to section 3 be included in this section. We would also request explicit language that would clarify that the incremental cost associated with the deployment of 1,000

MWs of battery storage would be apportioned to the electric distribution companies based on their respective loads.

Section 3 of the Raised Bill would call for demonstration projects that would collocate solar with storage. While we would support exploring additional pilots, we would suggest that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) be required to report the results of the zero carbon RFP project that include solar plus storage. This grid scale project is 19.9 MWs, located in Plainfield Connecticut. The project is schedule to enter service in 2023. We applaud the Department's selection of this project and we believe that it will provide valuable lessons on how to deploy batteries in conjunction with solar systems.

By incorporating the aforementioned changes, the Company would support Raised House Bill 5351. Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

You may also contact Al Carbone, Manager of Avangrid/UIIL State Government Relations at (203) 671-4421