



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5443
AA ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY DATA BILL OF RIGHTS
March 13, 2024

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Steinberg,
Distinguished Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5443 that will allow state residents to have access to important data related to the state's climate goals and renewable energy targets.

As Connecticut continues to transition to renewable energy, action will be required by individual residents, businesses, and municipalities to effectively transition as well. It is important that all these stakeholders be able to obtain publicly available data on energy usage, sources, and electrification of transportation and heating.

This information will allow individuals and organizations to better understand and manage their energy usage.

Access to energy data can also foster innovation in the energy sector by enabling the development of new technologies and services that rely on data analytics. **By ensuring that data is accessible to researchers, entrepreneurs, and innovators, Connecticut can support advancements in energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, and grid management.**

Eversource, United Illuminating, municipal electric utilities, natural gas distribution companies, and companies that provide delivered fuels (such as heating oil and propane), have data pertaining to many energy programs. **This data needs to be easily accessible in a centralized, publicly available database.**

While the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) can improve accurate, timely, and accessible reporting of energy data, there are gaps that exist that must be addressed by legislation. For example, PURA does not regulate municipal utilities or delivered fuels like heating oil.

HB 5443 will allow the public to access various energy-related data, including information about the state's building stock and heating systems, vehicle propulsion systems, renewable energy sources, and energy storage projects. This information will be contained in a centralized database available on a public website. Additionally, individuals will have the right to view their own energy usage data collected by electric distribution companies and share this data with others.

Connecticut has a Chief Data Officer (CDO) whose responsibilities include operating the Open Data Portal. That officer is best suited to manage the implementation centralized database. The CDO's responsibilities should include ensuring privacy protections, possibly with different access levels for different user groups (e.g., government agencies, research institutions, and the public).

CTL CV urges the Committee to **SUPPORT HB 5443** to guarantee public access to the data needed to help meet our climate targets and accurately monitor progress.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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