



TESTIMONY

SB 123 AAC The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Regulation of Electric Rates and State Public Policy Concerning Electricity Generation
February 21, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Steinberg, Vice Chairs Sen. McCrory and Rep. Foster, Ranking Members Sen. Fazio and Rep. Buckbee, Distinguished Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

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

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 123, which includes language that redefines ALL hydropower as a CLASS I renewable energy source.

The section you propose to delete (page 11-12, lines 322 to 342) contains carefully constructed language that represents many years of negotiations among all parties.

For hydropower to be given the highest classification of renewable power, it should not cause irreparable damage to the environment. The current language in statute was considered a compromise that met several conditions such as ensuring adequate flow to protect downstream habitat and installing fish passages.

If you remove these standards, you will delete the most basic environmental protections for our waterways and incentivize the construction of any hydropower, placed anywhere, with no restrictions on the damage it can cause to the river ecosystem.

CTLCV respectfully requests that the members of the Committee leave the definition of Class I hydropower intact. If it is deleted, you will be rolling back environmental protections for our state's waterways.

CTLCV supports the Committee's efforts on clean energy and we are fully committed to building on the progress made in 2022 to address climate change. We urge you not to create unnecessary environmental problems for our natural resources, and to consider our waters, soils, and forested lands as integral to the climate solutions we seek.

Thank you for considering the environment when you vote.

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