



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 27, 2015

Commissioner Robert Klee
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Tri-State Request for Proposals for Clean Energy and Transmission for Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Dear Commissioner Klee:

As Eastern Connecticut's Legislative Delegation we are pleased to see the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island engaged in a collaborative fashion to procure affordable renewable energy, reflecting our commonly held goals to mitigate climate change, ensure fuel diversity, and protect ratepayers.

In our region of eastern Connecticut, a 30-megawatt facility sits idled in the Town of Sterling, very close to the Rhode Island border. The facility was constructed in the early 1990s to use tires as fuel, and began to add wood biomass to its fuel mix in 2013 before market conditions led to its closure later that year. The owner of the facility would like as a part of a joint redevelopment venture, to invest significantly in the facility so that wood biomass can be utilized as its exclusive fuel.

This facility, now called ReEnergy Sterling, has historically employed Connecticut and Rhode Island residents and conducted business with suppliers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The proposed repowering project would create significant economic benefit to our region while generating baseload renewable power that would contribute to fuel diversity and advance our regional goals of reliability and rate stability. Having this plant back running on-line would also help achieve the goals of providing back up power to the Groton/New London Naval Submarine Base and General Dynamics located in southeastern Connecticut.

We would mention, however that as written the multi-state draft RFP, does not appear to offer clear support for the repowering of this facility. It does not include the procurement of renewable energy under Section 8 of Connecticut Public Act 13-303 and the proposed evaluation criteria do not place a high value on in-state generating assets or benefits. As such, we would also request that in the future, DEEP also consider a single-state procurement for its unused authority under Section 8, or alternatively request that this multi-state RFP be amended to incorporate a procurement which places a higher weight on in-state resources and economic benefits.

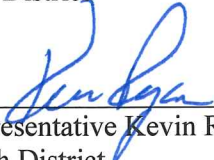
DEEP's prior Section 8 procurement led to significant ratepayer savings, and conducting another one would likely lead to similar ratepayer savings while allowing the creation of a new renewable energy project in eastern Connecticut with related economic and employment benefits.

We appreciate the opportunity to support ReEnergy Sterling's draft document RFP application and look forward to them becoming a full partner with this tri-state initiative to meet the energy needs of southern New England.

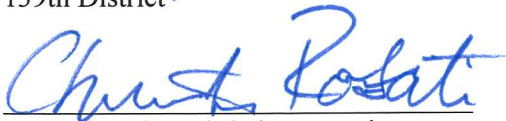
Sincerely,



Representative Paul Brycki
45th District



Representative Kevin Ryan
139th District



Representative Christine Rosati
44th District

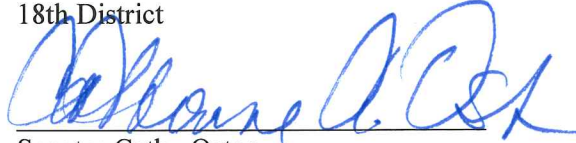


Representative Linda Orange
48th District



Representative Danny Rovero
51st District


Senator Andrew Maynard
18th District



Senator Cathy Osten
19th District



Representative Susan Johnson
49th District



Representative Sam Belsito
53rd District