

## **Testimony of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Regarding Raised Bill 372 An Act Concerning Biodiesel**

Good Afternoon, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. I am Lise Dondy, president of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. I am here today to speak about Raised Bill 372 An Act Concerning Biodiesel. Specifically, I will address section 2 of the bill.

As background, the CCEF is an electric ratepayer fund. It was created by the legislature as a part of deregulation and its mission is to promote, develop and invest in clean energy sources for the benefit of Connecticut ratepayers. To date, CCEF has funded over 500 projects across the state that will generate 12.8 MW of renewable electricity. Because our funding is derived from the electric ratepayer, and more specifically from the CL&P and UI ratepayer, all projects that we fund generate electricity.

Section 2 of Raised Bill 372 amends CCEF's statute by changing the definition of "renewable energy." This definition serves as the basis for determining which technologies the CCEF can financially support through its programs and initiatives. The current definition includes "alternative fuels used for electricity generation." This bill would repeal the requirement that alternative fuels be used for electricity generation. This is a major shift in public policy that the CCEF opposes unless some modification or adjustment is made to our funding source.

The legislature created the CCEF specifically for purposes of renewable electricity generation. Our funding comes solely from the electric ratepayer. We believe that it is unfair to the electric ratepayer to ask them to support the development of renewable sources that will be used for purposes other than electricity generation; in this case, transportation. Should this committee feel strongly that the state should support the development of alternative fuels used for purposes other than electricity generation I would like to suggest that the committee explore alternate funding mechanisms as a means to provide such support. The funding could come to the CCEF for purposes of developing programs and initiatives for this sector. We have the infrastructure to support additional funding and a very talented, innovative staff to create and implement programs.

Thank you for hearing our concerns today. We believe the state should be doing all it can to support emerging technologies and renewable resources. We just ask that this committee consider the appropriate financing mechanism for such support.