

Testimony before the CEAB in support of the 2007 Energy Plan, February 7, 2008

ATTENTION: G. DEANS

We support the demand-side measures of the energy plan and also support the Clean Water Action's Testimony. As Chair of the Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition, ECC, an ad hoc group of 430 members, which is out of Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr. Office, I have chosen to submit a brief statement which is a rough consensus from several of our members.

The ECC has in the past several years, been active in supporting legislation favoring energy efficiency as a prevention of global warming and all issues pertaining to preserving clean air and water. We have successfully engaged the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to pass unanimously, three resolutions: 1. To clean up the Sooty Six, (we of course would want renewables and efficiency to help retire the Sooty Six and that natural gas heating efficiency spending to be ramped up ASAP); 2. To support the 20% by 2010 Initiative of which we now have an Energy Task Force, whose task it is to find all the necessary energy efficient measures for our City and thirdly, a Resolution to clean up the Diesel Pollution (We live along I-95 which tells you our air quality is one of the worse in the country). So it is clear we have the City's support to promote conservation and energy efficiency and the desire to have and support clean energy production and conservation. Which follows, we do not support any coal burning or atomic power plants being installed in Connecticut nor see the necessity of a Broadwater.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough the necessity for allocating as much as possible, monies to go for research and development for renewable energy sources.

Finally we would like to make two points that we would like to emphasize as effective parts of the plan.

- 1) That the utilities have been telling us that the increase of electricity use in CT is mainly due to air conditioning, and a large part of that air conditioning is in residences. Then they turn around and offer efficiency and demand response programs to commercial and industrial customers! That doesn't make sense. Offer the efficiency and demand response programs to residential customers.
- 2) Residential electricity customers are more reactive to electricity price increases than the economists say they are; they will cut use to cut costs. For years, the utilities have been telling us otherwise, and they may actually have been correct, but in recent years some kind of threshold has been crossed and people are not acting the same, which means that demand response programs will work now if they're offered.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to respond to the Energy Plan.

Respectfully yours,

Ann H. Berman, Chair

Environmental Concerns Coalition: www.milfordecc.com

77 Pelham St.

Milford, CT 06560

annaherman@sbcglobal.net