

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE: 860-240-0430

July 20, 2018

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

RE: DRAFT NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM PRIVATE DEVELOPERS FOR ZERO CARBON ENERGY

Dear Commissioner Klee:

Serving on and co-chairing the Energy & Technology Committee has given us a profound appreciation for the role we play in the complex mission of providing Connecticut residents with access to clean, affordable, reliable power.

We are acutely aware that the legislature must work in concert with state agencies, industry professionals and environmental, workforce and ratepayer advocates to effectively pursue these goals.

Energy & Technology Committee members are committed to a diversified energy portfolio that includes fossil fuel and nuclear assets sufficient to provide a dependable base load of power while we transition to a renewable energy future.

As our energy system evolves from what's now to what's next, it is imperative that the power policies we craft preserve a reliable, affordable base load while incentivizing and fast-tracking renewable deployment. Those objectives go hand in hand.

Given this reality, we are frankly appalled that the draft RFP as proposed by DEEP regarding the state's energy procurement auction, appears to undo the careful collaborative planning among the energy committee, the agency and key stakeholders to produce rational, responsible legislation that received bipartisan approval from the Connecticut General Assembly.

The legislative intent of Public Act 17-3 is clear. Prolonging our base load of zero carbon power is paramount. As Connecticut legislators, we have also stepped up our interactions with lawmakers and agency professionals from other New England and northeast states. The departure of the nation's nuclear fleet, along with the retirement of other old base load fossil fuel assets, is a shared and growing concern. Other states – New York and New Jersey for instance – have taken a different, more costly approach to keeping their nuclear plants from closing. We are justifiably proud of Connecticut's more elegant RFP solution.

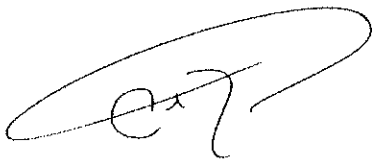
Last session our committee worked tirelessly with the agency and key stakeholders to draft and pass a new comprehensive strategy that fast-tracks the deployment of renewables. The process was not without controversy, but we worked together to make it happen.

Siting and building grid scale renewables in our New England region presents particular challenges. While we fight all the battles to implement the next generation of energy assets, it is imperative that we protect the base load now supplying 50 per cent of our daily energy demands. That is why we worked with the agency to provide an opportunity for Dominion to bid into Connecticut's energy procurement within next year's cycle. This offers a "Show us what you've got" possibility for ratepayers, and the Connecticut and regional economies to benefit.

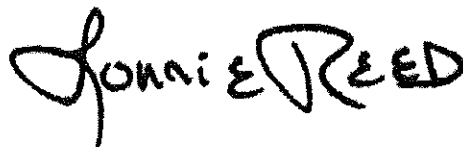
We implore you to remove the "At Risk Time Period" language in the draft RFP that pushes out Dominion's ability to bid until 2023. The language is irresponsible and flies in the face of legislative intent.

Capacity contracts can be off-loaded to dirtier providers and easily written off, so we have the very real potential for the premature closure of Millstone Station. Again, we ask you to please remove the "At Risk Time Period," language so this process can move in the intended direction.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Formica
State Senator, District 20
Co-Chairperson



Lonnie Reed
State Representative, District 102
Co-Chairperson