



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5348
AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

March 2, 2020

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Arconti and Distinguished Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of HB 5348** to study Community Choice Aggregation.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs allows local governments to procure more renewable energy while reducing ratepayer electric bills. **Nationwide, CCA electric rate savings average between 2% and 20% depending on market conditions and power resources.**

CCA would allow municipalities to choose their electricity provider, allowing them to purchase from cleaner, cheaper sources than the utility. Power continues to be delivered through the utility, and any ratepayer is free to opt out at any time.

CCA has the ability to make clean and renewable energy available to everyone, no matter where they live. By purchasing energy as a unit, consumers are able to power their home or business with clean energy, even if they are not necessarily able to install clean energy units in their home.

A study would determine whether or not Connecticut should consider allowing CCAs in the state. To date, nine states allow CCAs: California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Virginia. **In 2017, the CCAs in these states procured 42 million Megawatt hours of electricity on behalf of five million customers.**

The completion date for the study should be before, not after the 2021 CT General Assembly session and critical stakeholders, such as municipalities, environmental organizations, CCA experts, and environmental justice groups should have a significant role in the study process.

The need for clean energy options is urgent. In order to facilitate the demand for clean energy, Connecticut needs to study the possibility of allowing CCAs in the state. We urge you to vote YES on **HB 5348**. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown
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