



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF HB 6928**  
AAC MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAMS.  
February 18, 2025

**To:** Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Steinberg, and Distinguished Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

**From:** Connor Yakaitis, Deputy Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV), a statewide environmental nonprofit dedicated to protecting Connecticut's air, land, water, and climate, we submit this testimony in strong support of HB 6928. This bill would enable municipalities, either individually or collectively, to establish municipal electric aggregation programs, thereby increasing consumer choice, reducing electricity costs, and accelerating the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

### **The Need for Municipal Aggregation**

Connecticut's current regulatory framework prevents municipalities from fully leveraging their collective buying power to procure electricity for their residents at lower costs. Meanwhile, ten other states—including our neighbors New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire—have already adopted Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) or similar programs. These programs have demonstrated their ability to reduce electric bills while advancing local renewable energy initiatives.

As energy prices continue to fluctuate and the urgency of transitioning to renewable sources intensifies, Connecticut's municipalities should not be left behind. Enabling municipal electric aggregation will empower local governments to negotiate better electricity rates for their constituents and play a more proactive role in shaping their energy futures.

### **How Community Power and Municipal Aggregation Work**

Municipalities would have the authority to procure electricity supply for their residents and small businesses, with the ability for customers to opt out if they prefer to remain with their existing supplier. This framework has already been successfully implemented in states like Massachusetts, where 176 municipalities have authorized CCAs, representing 41% of the state.

Additionally, a more advanced model allows municipalities to form Joint Action Agencies (JAAs), which provide expertise in developing local energy projects, including solar installations, battery storage, and efficiency programs. These JAAs enhance community energy resilience, support local economic development, and create jobs, all without requiring taxpayer funding.

## Key Benefits of HB 6928

1. **Lower Electricity Supply Costs** – Municipal aggregation programs have consistently led to lower electricity rates for residents and businesses in states where they have been implemented.
2. **Increased Renewable Energy Options** – Municipalities would gain the flexibility to source cleaner energy, offering residents a more sustainable alternative to default utility supply options.
3. **Enhanced Energy Resilience** – Distributed energy resources, such as local solar and battery storage, can improve grid reliability and help communities withstand power disruptions.
4. **Economic Growth and Job Creation** – Local energy projects generate new investment, create jobs, and keep energy dollars within Connecticut communities.
5. **Empowerment of Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities** – Municipal aggregation provides historically underserved communities with a stronger voice in local energy decisions.
6. **No Additional Burden on Taxpayers** – These programs are self-sustaining, funded through electricity sales rather than taxpayer dollars.
7. **Cleaner Air and Public Health Benefits** – By prioritizing electrification and renewable energy, aggregation programs contribute to improved air quality and public health outcomes.
8. **Stronger Advocacy for Clean Energy** – Municipal aggregation amplifies local voices in state energy policy discussions, increasing support for a clean energy transition.

## Proven Success in Other States

The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), established in 2021, has already saved customers approximately \$14 million in its first year of operation while setting aside \$10 million in reserve funds for future projects. This success demonstrates the financial viability and economic advantages of allowing municipalities to manage their own electricity supply. Connecticut has the opportunity to replicate and build upon these successes with HB 6928.

## Legislative Action is Needed Now

The Connecticut General Assembly should pass HB 6928 to allow municipalities to:

- Become the default electricity supplier for residents and small businesses, with an opt-out provision.
- Form and receive services from a Joint Powers Agency to support electricity procurement, local renewable energy projects, and energy efficiency initiatives.

By adopting this legislation, Connecticut can unlock significant economic, environmental, and consumer benefits while positioning itself as a leader in energy innovation. We urge the Committee and the full General Assembly to support HB 6928 and empower municipalities to take charge of their energy

futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your leadership in advancing sustainable energy policies in Connecticut.

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