

# Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6853  
AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR MICROGRIDS AND RESILIENCE  
**Title:** PROJECTS.  
**Vote Date:** 3/14/2023  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable  
**PH Date:** 3/7/2023  
**File No.:** 191

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

[Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th Dist.](#)

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill intends to expand eligibility for the Microgrid and Resilience Grant and Loan Program, which allows entities to repurpose distributed energy generation for use in microgrids, support essential facilities, or develop climate resiliency projects. Increasing the program's scope will assist Connecticut communities in planning resiliency programs to mitigate the adverse effects of power outages due to extreme weather events and help transition the state to a renewable and clean energy future.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

Claire Coleman, Commissioner, CT Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC)

OCC supports the bill because it expands access to microgrid resiliency programs, which helps critical facilities stay operational during power outages. The expansion of resiliency programs will also help ensure that the state is in the best position to receive federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The OCC also supports utilizing the bonds proposed in the Governor's budget to increase resources for resiliency programs.

Katie Dykes, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Supports this bill because developing resilience plans for Connecticut's communities will ensure a fair amount of federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Expanding the resiliency programs to state and federal tribes will assist in these planning efforts and increase climate resiliency in underserved communities. However, DEEP does not support expanding the resiliency programs to state agencies because there are other efforts at the state level to tackle climate resilience projects. DEEP also recommends the removal of "subdivision (b)(4) of section 1 as the bond funds will not be used for administration of the program" (Katie Dykes; DEEP Testimony; March 7, 2023).

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

Anne Schmidt, Group Leader, Citizens Climate Education

Supports the bill if lines 81-82 of Paragraph(c)(3) are amended. She does not think natural gas or fossil fuels should be allowed for microgrids as they detract from the state's greenhouse gas emissions targets and efforts to improve efforts in environmental justice communities.

Lori Vitagliano, Government & Public Relations Specialist, Regional Water Authority (RWA)

Supports if the bill includes "Political Subdivision of the state' as an eligible recipient in Line 49" (Lori Vitagliano; Regional Water Authority [RWA] Testimony; March 7, 2023). This proposed change will ease access to funding for the Regional Water Authority.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: David deHaas**

**Date: 3/17/22**