

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5337 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM INCENTIVES.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Energy & Technology Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut is seeking to incentivize district heating systems to make energy in the state more efficient, affordable, and sustainable. This is to further the state's push towards renewable energy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Claire Coleman, Consumer Counsel, Office of Consumer Counsel \(OCC\):](#)

The OCC is concerned that the bill as currently proposed is redundant. They are happy to cooperate with stakeholders as needed but does not support layering incentives on top of each other to the extent that this bill is suggesting.

[Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protections \(DEEP\):](#)

DEEP has concerns with the bill as proposed. While they agree that district heating systems has the capacity to lower costs and reduce energy demands, the statute this proposal is amending already provides incentives for end use customers. They are willing to cooperate with the committee as needed. They conclude by stating that if the bill is intending to provide additional incentives, they would need more costs and resources to be able to execute them properly.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Christopher Rosario, Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore, State of Connecticut House of Representatives:](#)

Representative Rosario believes the bill as currently written limits the potential of a district thermal system can have. He requests the committee clarify incentives under 16-258d be calculated on a full committed term of natural gas demand reduction to ensure fair treatment and realign with the Legislature's original policy goals. He believes such changes will greatly benefit Bridgeport, the surrounding region, and reduce peak gas demand.

Peter Millman, Vice President, People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE):

PACE supports this bill and requests that the bill's language be altered to incentivize buildings share excess heat to others through joining Thermal Energy Networks (TEN). They bring attention to its environmental and economic benefits as well as their program, Thermal Energy Networks for Connecticut (TEN4CT), that provides support for communities with TENs. They cite TENs' successful widespread use across the state and its utilization in other states to advocate funding for it.

Scott Guilmartin, Co-Founder, NuPower LLC:

NuPower supports HB 5337 and is requesting the committee adjusts Connecticut General Statutes §16- 258d so it works the way it was originally intended. They explain that the budget for the Bridgeport thermal energy system project was reduced by 44% due to a consultant interpreting the law very narrowly, only funding one year's worth of savings, as opposed to long-term funding that the program needs to be sufficiently effective. They are asking that the committee clarify that the incentives should be based on the full, committed term of natural gas reduction, and that "equivalent" savings compares total gas reductions fairly, as opposed to a single boiler program.

Adam Grady:

Adam Grady is a regenerative farmer advocating for the importance of agrivoltaics. He claims it to have agricultural, economic, and environmental benefits, applauding its efficiency. He continues that despite its vast benefits; he stresses the importance of the technology being used to serve and advance agriculture first and foremost and should never be used to displace it.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Robert Keen:

Robert Keen is strongly opposed to this bill, asserting that it will significantly increase heating prices and have a devastating financial impact on customers. He uses reporting to support his claims. In addition, he believes the subject of this bill is unclear.

Anonymous 27, Anonymous 29, Anonymous 28, Anonymous 30:

Submitted testimony unrelated to the bill.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Samantha Dynowski, State Director, Sierra Club Connecticut:

The Sierra club advocates for the Capitol Area System (CAS) to become a Thermal Energy Network (TEN) and believe this bill should be amended to assess the CAS and study renewable technologies for it, including a TEN.

Doug Horton, Senior Vice President of Regulatory, Eversource Energy:

Eversource asks the legislature and DEEP to consider the cost impacts additional incentives may have on ratepayer bills.

Christie Prescott, Vice President of Regulatory, The United Illuminating Company (UI):

UI states that providing an incentive amount for lifetime value would be difficult and would require claw-back language to be added to the bill if expected savings are not achieved.

Reported by: Tatyana Massa, Assistant Clerk

Date: March 30th, 2026