

# State of Connecticut

**SENATOR GARY D. LeBEAU**  
ASSISTANT PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
THIRD DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL  
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**SENATE**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Michelle Totten  
Bureau of Air Management  
Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Ms. Totten:

By notice in the "Connecticut Law Journal," the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has invited comments on proposed regulations to implement the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in our state.

Section 93 of Public Act 07-242, "An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency," requires DEP, in consultation with the Department of Public Utility Control, to establish a cap and trade program for the state's electric generation facilities. Emission allowances will be auctioned and the proceeds will be used for the state's conservation and load management programs and for the development of Class I renewable energy projects.

Section 22a-174-31(f)(4)(D) of the draft regulations proposes to allocate 21.125 percent of the auction proceeds to the development of Class I renewable energy sources and 69.375 percent to energy conservation programs overseen by the Connecticut Energy Management Board. Understanding that the legislature last year restored the fully authorized level of funding to this conservation fund (\$85 million), I strongly urge DEP to modify the allocation percentages in the proposed regulations to provide that a full 50 percent of the available auction proceeds be allocated to Class I renewable energy sources such as solar power, methane gas recovery from landfills and fuel cells. In this process, I would like DEP to place a priority on the development and utilization of fuel cells.

As you are aware, Connecticut is a pioneer in the development of fuel cell technology, leading to global emission reductions, diversity of fuel sources and less expensive forms of clean energy. We have some of the largest fuel cell companies in the world in our state and the University of Connecticut has established itself as a leader in advanced fuel cell research through its Global Fuel Cell Center. By promoting additional funding for fuel cells, DEP would keep Connecticut in the forefront of energy innovation and environmental awareness. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed RGGI regulations. I look forward to your consideration of my recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary D. LeBeau".

Gary D. LeBeau  
State Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District