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REEBA Opposes Raid of CEFIA and RGGI Funding

HARTFORD – The Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association, Inc.(REEBA), opposes measures included in HB 6704, *An Act Concerning Expenditures and Revenue For the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015*.

Sections 105 – 107 of HB 6704 transfer funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Account and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) to the state’s General Fund over the next biennium.

“The legislature, simply put, is raiding our state’s renewable energy programs to shore-up fiscal deficiencies in the General Fund,” said Paul Michaud, REEBA Executive Director and Murtha Cullina attorney. “These raids are a signal to our state’s renewable industry and businesses that Connecticut is not supportive of alternative energy.”

The bill transfers \$5 million of funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Account and \$6.2 million from CEFIA to the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2014, and \$24.2 million from CEFIA to the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2015.

Michaud also commented, “Diverting these funds is short-sighted and will lead to lost jobs and stifled economic growth for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The raids may further inhibit CEFIA’s ability to administer programs such as the 30 MW residential solar program and the C-PACE program – programs that are currently required under state statute.

“Most alarming is that these cuts are on heels of new public policy and initiatives meant to increase the scope of Connecticut’s renewable energy portfolio. However, rather than incentivize industry growth, the legislature is slashing necessary funding only to further burden the organizations and businesses that administer renewable programs and opportunities mandated under state law.”

About REEBA:

REEBA is a trade association of renewable energy and efficiency businesses with over 100 members. REEBA’s mission is to promote the sustainable deployment of renewable energy, demand-side-management, and energy efficiency in Connecticut. www.reeba.org

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