



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

HB 6635, AAC Solar Power:

CBIA supports the intent behind **HB 6635, AAC Solar Power**, which promotes the use of solar power in the state. However, rather than only promoting solar power, CBIA would like to see the legislature promote any renewable technology that will benefit Connecticut ratepayers. That means being flexible enough to include unknown future technologies.

Additionally CBIA **opposes** Section 2 of the bill. This section allocates half of the money collected by the Renewable Energy Investment Fund surcharge to the newly created residential solar photovoltaic direct incentive program. That means that half of the money available to ratepayers is automatically out of play for Commercial & Industrial (hereinafter "C&I") customers. Additionally, C&I customers would not be guaranteed the other half of the fund; they would have to compete with the other residential programs for the remaining half of the fund.

Moreover, Section 2 also allows the surcharge placed on all customers bills to be increased if the demand for the residential solar photovoltaic direct incentive program outpaces the available funds. That means that every customer's rates will increase while only residential customers have the possibility of benefiting from the increased charge.

71% of the respondents to CBIA's 2008 Annual Membership Survey indicated that they did not want their electric bills to increase to fund additional energy efficiency measures.

While the Renewable Energy Investment Fund is not energy efficiency, the message is strong. Ratepayers do not want additional costs tacked on to their electric bills. In fact, Connecticut ratepayers already pay the highest surcharge in the country on our electric bills – 1 mill per kilowatt hour for renewables and 3 mills per kilowatt hour for efficiency.

For the aforementioned reasons, please **reject Section 2 of HB 6635**.