



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

DONALD W. DOWNES  
CHAIRPERSON

## THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

### House Bill 6635: AAC SOLAR POWER

March 10, 2009

#### TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DONALD W. DOWNES

The Department of Public Utility Control (Department) would like to comment on House Bill No. 6635. House Bill No. 6635 contains several provisions to implement a residential solar photovoltaic installations program. While the Department supports the creation of clean and green energy for Connecticut residents and the enhancement of green collar jobs in the state it does have some serious reservations concerning the bill as currently proposed.

Program funding for solar projects is already around thirty million dollars annually. Thus, in the Department's opinion these programs are effectively funded and gaining subscribership now without the need for further legislative support. The proposed bill would require additional funding to support thirty-five megawatts of new residential solar photovoltaic installations for the next twelve years. Funding for this program would come from money collected from ratepayers under the surcharge authorized in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-245n. Furthermore, the bill contains a provision whereby additional funds for this program can be diverted by the Department's authorization to temporarily increase the surcharge in the event the program encounters a deficit. Once again we are asking our ratepayers to bear the cost for programs that benefit not only the states' energy users but also the citizens of this state who desire more clean and green energy resources.

Moreover, if there is concern that the budget allotted for this program is insufficient, the Department should not be made responsible for such contingencies that would further negatively impact Connecticut ratepayers.

The Department thanks the Committee for this opportunity to testify and is ready to work with this Committee on language to remove ratepayer money from being the primary funding source of this bill.