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Energy and Technology Committee
March 10, 2009
Testimony of Martin Mador
In Support of
HB 6635 An Act Concerning Solar Power

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic prosperity, and our quality of life. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale.

HB 6635 contains a long term plan to dramatically increase solar energy installations of various capacities in the state.

We have established programs over the past few years which help subsidize and encourage solar energy installations. They constitute a start towards an appropriate goal. The programs have proven so popular that they are now out of money. We have a crisis now, as additional solar will not be installed without new funding mechanisms. We are sorely in need of much larger programs to grow our reliance on solar energy. To protect our economic future, our environment, and to minimize our contribution to global warming, we must invest our resources in renewable energy rather than in fossil fuel plants and long distance transmission lines.

HB 6635 would:

- install 10,000 residential solar systems
- ensure funding for these systems
- create a market for the distribution companies for energy from non-residential systems using Solar Renewable Energy Credits
 - 350 medium systems sized about 100kw
 - 75 larger systems of 200kw
- Provide capital from bonding for solar for state buildings
- Provide community solar purchase arrangements
- Provide Incentives for installation of very large systems 2mw or larger

Municipalities, businesses, non-profits and institutions will be able to install systems which will supply their energy needs at reasonable rates. These systems will not compete with residential systems for funding, as is the case now.

Sierra strongly recommends passage of HB 6635.