

Written Testimony of Andrea Cohen Kiener Director, CT Interfaith Power and Light

Written Testimony in support of House Bill 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Thank you for the opportunity to address portions of raised bill 5362. There are several provisions of this bill that I find compelling. First I need to say how important it is that we do not take the short term fix of raiding the clean energy funds. Even in a time of tight economy – *especially* in a time of tight economy – conservation and proven scalable clean energy investments must continue as drivers of economic growth. The state’s energy funds must play a consistent market-driver role – unhampered by annual funding crises.

Bill 5362 enables a sustainable ongoing mechanism for funding various scales of distributed solar projects around CT. This process supports the solar energy business in CT, which has a history of starts and stops due to binge-and-purge funding. Bill 5362 establishes a long term, fair and sensible plan to build a market-based distributed generation economy allows private project developers to compete to create the best projects with selection by utilities who are well-equipped to manage project selection. Synagogues, churches and other houses of faith appreciate the opportunity to invest in “care of creation” projects, including solar power systems. Such institutions understand and benefit from renewable energy projects financed over long years of use. The missing link is a funding mechanism and that’s what this bill provides. Much financial and social support can be leveraged from such projects as solar can protect faith communities, households and businesses from rising energy costs.

Thank you for your support of this far-sighted and beneficial bill.

Andrea Cohen Kiener

147 Milton Street

West Hartford CT 06119

860-523-8999