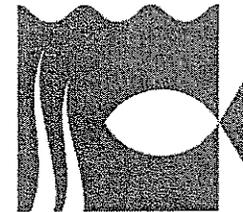


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



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Connecticut Fund for the Environment

**Energy & Technology Committee
Public Hearing
March 4, 2010**

Submitted by: Charles J. Rothenberger, Staff Attorney

In Support of:

H.B. No. 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 6,500 members statewide. The mission of CFE is to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. For more than twenty-five years, CFE has used legal and scientific expertise to bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Representative Nardello, Senator Fonfara and Members of the Committee, Connecticut Fund for the Environment is pleased to testify in favor of HB 5362, An Act Concerning Renewable Energy.

This bill would create a long-term, stable plan for increasing the amount of solar photovoltaic capacity deployed in the state. This is the secret to developing and maintaining a healthy solar industry in Connecticut. There has been a lot of talk about creating "green jobs" here at home, and this bill is a key element in achieving that goal.

We have to remember that Connecticut is competing with neighboring states such as Massachusetts and New York that have established very aggressive renewable energy goals. If Connecticut does not keep pace, renewable energy jobs will migrate to those markets.

Among its provisions, the bill directs the state's electric utilities to develop solar solicitation plans for long-term solar renewable energy credits or energy contracts from in-state generators. This will help to ensure the market stability necessary for developers of clean energy technology to obtain financing to build their projects.

HB 5362 will stimulate the creation of green jobs and the expansion of the renewable energy industry in the state. Accordingly, CFE supports the bill in its entirety and urges its adoption.