Testimony of Kevin R. Hennessy
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The Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Before the Energy & Technology Committee
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My name is Kevin Hennessy. I am a staff attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (hereinafter "CBIA"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees. All of our members are energy consumers and rely on energy for their respective day-to-day operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on:

HB 5362, AAC Renewable Energy

CBIA opposes **HB 5362**, *AAC Renewable Energy*, as drafted. Although CBIA supports renewable energy, this bill promotes solar photovoltaic ("PV") technology at the expense of other renewable technologies and it promotes residential installations at the expense of Commercial and Industrial ("C&I") installations.

Specifically, **Sections 1 & 2** are problematic. These sections create a 30 MW residential solar PV program for the next eleven years. CBIA's opposition to this is twofold. First, it invests in only one renewable technology – PVs - at the expense of others. In fact, it invests in one of the more expensive renewable technologies. PVs are a more expensive renewable energy source compared to wind, hydro, and biomass. Second, up to one third of the money collected by the Renewable Energy Investment Fund's surcharge on ratepayers' electric bills will be dedicated to the new residential solar PV program. That means that one third of the money available to ratepayers is automatically out of play for C&I customers. Additionally, C&I customers would not be guaranteed the other two thirds of the fund; they would have to compete with the other residential programs for the remaining funds.

Additionally, **Sections 3, 4 and 6** appear to add costs that would most likely be borne by ratepayers. It is paramount that the legislature considers cost implications when adopting energy policies. Connecticut has some of the highest electric rates in the country. Adopting policies that will increase those already high rates is not something Connecticut's consumers can afford.

For the aforementioned reasons, CBIA opposes **HB 5362.**