

BeFree Green Energy LLC
PO Box 8295
New Haven, CT 06510

February 23, 2010

RE: Raised Bill No. 5225 LCO No. 988 AN ACT CONCERNING SOLAR WORK.

I would like to put into the record our STRONG OBJECTION to bill 5225, AN ACT CONCERNING SOLAR WORK.

Solar PV and Thermal work was designed to be easy to understand and install. Many other states allow the homeowner to do this work themselves and still get the state rebate, something that Connecticut must also do if it wants to see solar spread to 5% of the population within 10 years. Limiting solar PV work and Thermal work when thousands of installations have been done perfectly in the last few years without any such requirements will further increase costs to CT residents who already are paying some of the highest costs for Solar work due to the large amount of paperwork and utility requirements placed on Solar Installations.

All the jobs created thus far and the companies installing solar thus far will shut down if this bill passes. This is the year that solar pv and thermal will be affordable to residents and this bill will shut down the businesses that exist today. You will be putting many people out of work and hundreds of new young workers looking for work will not have a job waiting for them.

Right now we hire E1's to perform the final hookup of a PV system. Not one E1 or E2 that I have encountered has wanted to go up on a roof to install solar panels nor has he had an apprentice that has wanted to go up on a roof and install solar panels. 100% of them have been scared of heights. There is no need for this bill nor its many new requirements. What the Solar industry needs is less requirements to grow, not more. Jobs will not be created in this state and businessmen who are here now creating solar companies will leave this state. New Jersey is only 2 hours away and has the best solar rebate program in the country along with a law that says any homeowner can install solar systems themselves. IF a homeowner can do it as a weekend project then why should we here in Connecticut require only a E1 or E2 to be able to do it?

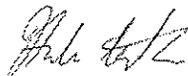
Solar panels were made to be easy to use and install. They have no moving parts. They have 2 plugs which are shock proof and which connect in only one manner to other solar panels. Electricity can easily be shut off by covering a solar panel. There is nothing complicated about it and that is what the state should be emphasizing. We need a law that allows homeowners to install solar themselves and still get the state rebate. A E1 or even a PV license should not be required for any part of a solar installation as it is very easy to do. Soon Home Depot will be carrying solar panels easily installable by anyone.

We must get 50% of residents to install solar by 2020 or we will have a serious problem facing us in the next 20 years, both environmental, economical, and social.

This bill is severely flawed and no lawmaker in this state should vote for it.

Sincerely,

Harsh Luthra



President