

March 4, 2010

Written Testimony of Harsh Luthra owner of BeFree Green Energy LLC of PO BOX 8295. New Haven, CT  
06530

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee  
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Written Testimony in support of House Bill 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar power on homes and businesses will cost customers 1/25 the cost of nuclear power and 1/12 the cost of coal power. These are facts and Connecticut rate payers deserve the lowest cost option for their future. Solar power will create millions of jobs while a nuclear power plant or any fossil fuel plant will only create a few jobs. For the future of our state I urge you to boost production of solar power now so that we can have 50% of our power come from solar power by 2020.

I urge you to view this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4EQnd2lrBg> . Pass a bill that will make Connecticut surpass all other states in America and set a new standard for renewable energy.

I make the following recommendations that should be incorporated into this bill:

1. Homeowners should be allowed to install solar themselves and still get a state rebate, after all, it is their money funding the state rebate for renewable energy. New Jersey and California have allowed this and they have many many more solar installations than we have here in CT.
2. The solar bill of rights should be incorporated so no one can stop solar on a home such as associations which want to deny solar to a homeowner because of its look on the roof or towns which block ground mounted solar systems because perk tests have not been done on the property previously. Please view it at <http://www.solarbillofrights.org/>
3. The CCEF should be dissolved and replaced with a simple and easy way to give homeowners rebate money from the state.
4. A price should be paid to a homeowner for each kwh of solar energy made, such as a feed in tariff. If this cannot be passed then the best alternative to this is a 100% state income tax credit for the amount spent on a renewable energy system.
5. Homeowners should be allowed to tie into the grid and sell back all their electricity on a separate meter as homeowners do not understand net metering and there is no way to check if they received full credit for everything they made in net metering.
6. Financing such as Property Assessed Clean Energy should be incorporated at the state level and there should be a simple easy system to have towns incorporate it so it does not take years for towns to start up financing individual PACE programs. This would allow 30 year financing of a renewable energy system in a home's property tax bill. See <http://pacenow.org/>
7. No one should be limited to the amount of renewable energy they wish to make. Rebates should not be capped at the amount of energy you used in the previous year. Many home owners want larger systems for many reasons, such as changing their primary fuel source or adding solar while also adding a addition or renovation.

Homeowners who have solar installed and businesses who have solar panels can eliminate their electrical usage at daytime hours when utilities are running short of power. This solves all our future problems and does so in the MOST cost effective manner. When you allow a utility to increase rates 20% or 150% it is a subsidy paid by rate payers. Solar will increase rates by less than 1% and will lead to a clean energy future, create jobs, and solve future energy needs all in one step. Solar power deserves respect.

Sincerely,

Signed: 