

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

H.B No. 5364, AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING **IN FAVOR**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on net metering in bill # 5364. The intent of the bill is excellent. It creates an incentive and open ended thinking about scalable solar installations. The bill guarantees a fair market income for home-grown solar generation and stimulates people to think about their commercial and residential spaces in aggregates. Too many times solar and small wind projects are stymied when the location with the best access to the renewable resource isn't where the electricity is needed the most.

Please consider adjusting the language of the bill to include projects that would center on or emanate from a neighborhood faith community. Many congregations are a physical center for the community as well as a spiritual home. The kinds of lands that congregations hold, including school, parking lots, cemeteries and grounds all would make intriguing parcels for the scalable projects addressed in this bill. In addition, many faith communities are already alert to the mandate for social justice and clean energy transition; communities of faith would be avid allies and advocates for solar installations.

Please add congregations and other non-profits to the list of groups that can benefit from a virtually net-metered solar installation. Our network of 600 congregations around CT will be supportive of this!

Rabbi Andrea Cohen Kiener

Director, Connecticut Interfaith Power and Light

484 Farmington Avenue

Hartford CT 06105