



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

Submitted by: Charles J. Rothenberger, Staff Attorney

In Support of:

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

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 5364, An Act Concerning Virtual Net Metering.

This bill would establish virtual net metering for Class I renewable energy resources in Connecticut. This policy would greatly expand the opportunities for investment in renewable energy resources by expanding the pool of customers that can take advantage of a renewable energy system.

For instance, there are currently many practical factors that might prevent a ratepayer from being able to install a solar PV system at their billing address, such as the unsuitability of the location with respect to sun exposure or restrictions contained in the local building codes or other property restrictions or covenants.

Virtual net metering will (1) allow all ratepayers to participate equally in federal and state renewable energy programs (and take advantage of the incentives provided), (2) help the state to achieve its renewable energy goals by expanding the use of renewable energy systems by ratepayers, and (3) reduce total energy demand for fossil fuel-generated electricity by feeding excess renewable power generation into the grid.

Virtual net metering is a sound policy that has already been adopted in other states and that will benefit Connecticut's residents, businesses and municipalities. Accordingly, CFE urges its adoption.