

TESTIMONY OPPOSING HB 5225 "AN ACT CONCERNING SOLAR WORK"
March 1, 2010

My name is Michael Trahan and I am Executive Director of Solar Connecticut, Inc., a non-profit group supporting solar energy education in Connecticut whose members are mostly small businesses that install solar energy systems on a full-time basis.

While several CGA committees are entertaining "Green Jobs" legislation, this bill, HB5225 is an anti-Green Jobs bill because it will put solar installers out of work upon passage.

These installers created Connecticut's nationally renowned solar industry and are largely responsible for the safe and quality installation of nearly 1,500 residential and commercial solar energy systems in Connecticut in just the past couple years. They are also largely responsible for making Connecticut one of the top five states in America for solar power. Our members are also architects, electrical contractors, plumbing contractors, suppliers, academic institutions and manufacturers.

The individuals effected by HB 5225, those who've earned a state PV1 or PV2 (photovoltaic) license, and those who legislators exempted from needing a license to work on the job site, would effectively be out of a job if this legislation were to pass. It would be disastrous if the very individuals, who created the solar market in Connecticut, took the risk and opened businesses and employ between 250-300 workers, were told that the PV license now has no value. And that the families who are dependent on that license, and the license exemption for workers who do not come into contact with dangerous levels of electricity on the site, were told that the bread winner in that family no longer has a job.

Don't be persuaded by the erroneous claims that solar panels right out of the box present a hazard to trained handlers. This is false and misleading as anyone who has worked in the industry will tell you. I expect to have documentation to that effect in your hands soon.

I understand that the DCP has reviewed this bill and does not support it.

Please contact me if there are future discussions related to this bill.

Thank you.

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