

Written Testimony of Barbara M. Smith Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee, March 15, 2011 concerning SENATE BILL 1, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY POLICY AND FINANCE.

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BILL 1 AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY POLICY AND FINANCE should contain:

- Programs for the growth of renewable, sustainable energy
 - solar power
 - creates jobs
 - stabilizes electricity costs
 - reduces peak power needs
 - a solar renewable energy credit program enabling businesses and residents to make solar buildable at a competitive cost
 - incentives will create stability, increase speed of conversion, and bring down costs
 - Hydro power only if it is run-of-the river
 - Wind power
- The new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection serving as a resource for municipalities
 - a place for towns to find programs to help them reduce their energy use and switch to renewable energy
 - a clearinghouse
 - facilitation of information sharing among towns.
 - administration of a standardized Energy Savings Performance Contracting program to provide standardized documents and templates to take away the risk of performance contracting for towns
- Allowing towns to do "virtual net metering" where a renewable energy system that produces more electricity than one town facility needs can be credited against electricity used at other facilities in town. The bill calls for a virtual net metering pilot project (sec. 83) but only for 30 customers!
- Requirement for the electric and gas utilities to provide municipal energy usage information at no charge to municipalities in the electronic EnergyStar Portfolio Manager format.

A sustainable economy, a healthy population, and a workable environment require sustainable energy, sustainable materials resource use, and conservation.