



Open the door to the Sun!

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Written Testimony from Sundoor Solar, LLC To the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee,

March 15, 2011 concerning

SENATE BILL 1, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY POLICY AND FINANCE.

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding this important legislation.

Sundoor Solar is a home-grown Connecticut-based solar power installation company based in Meriden. We design, install and services photovoltaic (PV) power systems. We are proud to emphasize the message that solar power means jobs for Connecticut workers. Each project we install helps support our staff of carpenters, electricians and photovoltaic professionals.

Moreover, when solar photovoltaic installations are provided with adequate and appropriate incentives, these systems provide huge benefits to the homeowners, businesses, municipalities and electric ratepayers of Connecticut.

While other testimony may provide additional detail, we would like to make the following points to clarify what we believe this legislation must do, and why it is both crucial to our industry and to the residents of Connecticut.

1. This Legislation has the potential to create a stable economic base for the installation of residential photovoltaic systems for the next decade in Connecticut. Over the last several years, we have experienced painful boom-and-bust cycles as various incentive programs offered by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund have come in and out of existence. Each time a program has ended, it has stranded customers we have worked with, who become unable to receive an anticipated incentive. The incentive programs in place over the past year have been disappointing, making it difficult for us to maintain our involvement in solar and causing other installers to withdrawal from Connecticut altogether.



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In order to be effective a five-year time horizon is not sufficient. Senate Bill 1 should be amended to be a ten-year program, like the legislation that was passed during the 2010 legislative session.

2. Senate Bill 1 should be amended to remove provisions in Section 8 that would redefine "Class 1 Renewables" to include existing and out-of-state sources of hydro-electric power. While hydro-electric power may be beneficial for Connecticut, this provision presents the danger that it would allow existing hydro-electric power to overwhelm and dominate the funds intended to produce new sources of renewable energy and create Connecticut jobs.
3. Senate Bill 1 should be amended so that the monetary cap on the value of each SREC is higher than the \$350 named in the current version of the bill. Again, the terms used in last year's legislation is more appropriate (i.e., at or near \$600 per SREC).
4. If these changes are made, and Senate Bill 1 becomes law, it will provide a needed boost for the installation of clean, renewable energy for the residents of Connecticut. Our industry needs the stability of funding that this program would provide, through a mechanism that has proven successful in other nearby states (notably, in New Jersey and Massachusetts).
5. We understand that this legislation was opposed last year by some who claimed that this legislation would be outrageously expensive for Connecticut businesses, and not provide measureable benefits to the ratepayers of the state, who, after all, are providing the funds for this initiative. We believe both these claims are false, and we encourage you to obtain objective sources of analysis, and not allow false claims to derail this legislation.
6. Evidence that an SREC-based system, properly designed, will not be an undue burden on ratepayers can also be found by looking at the experience of other states. In New Jersey, for example, we are told the cost of the program to ratepayers is so small that it is difficult to put a number to the cost incurred.



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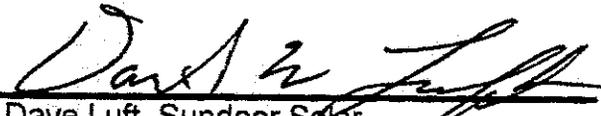
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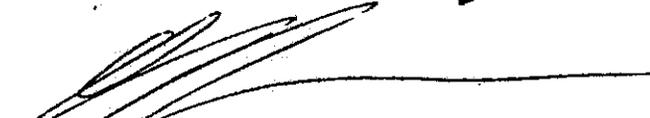
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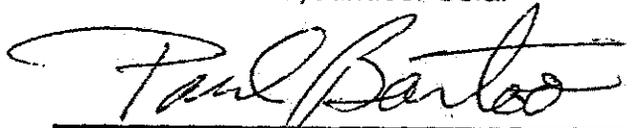
7. The evidence that this legislation will benefit all of the ratepayers of Connecticut was clear to those who drafted the legislation last year, with the title, An Act Reducing Electricity Costs and Promoting Renewable Energy. The high cost of electricity in Connecticut is directly attributable to the large amount of power our utilities are forced to purchase on the spot market during the ten or twenty hottest days of summer. Solar photovoltaics put power onto the grid when it is most needed – large amounts of power on the hottest days.

We hope this testimony is helpful to the Committee, and again thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for this legislation.

Sincerely,


Dave Luft, Sundoor Solar


Ernest DeCosta, Sundoor Solar


Paul Bartoo, Sundoor Solar