

Written Testimony of Gordon Schies  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee  
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Written Testimony concerning Senate Bill 1, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY  
POLICY AND FINANCE

I built a new "net zero" ranch on 4.5 acres for \$250,000 last year in Danielson, CT. It uses NO fossil fuels and is powered exclusively by an 8.2kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The solar system heats and cools the house via geothermal, heats the domestic water via an electric hot water tank, and provides all the rest of the electricity in the home. Of course, the home is well insulated so it doesn't take a lot of energy to heat and cool it.

The solar system without incentives costs \$45,000 and has a life of about 40 years. It will produce about 350,000kWh of electricity over it's lifetime. Divide that into the total cost and I'm paying 12.8 cents/kWh TODAY - about 2/3 of what I'd be paying CL&P without it TODAY - and that cost is FIXED and not subject to future utility rate hikes. Obviously, solar PV is already cheaper than fossil fuels (though it must be paid all up front which many folks can't afford - that's where this bill can help). I'm not writing to describe how the PV system benefits myself, however, but how my PV system benefits the rest of the citizens of CT.

- I've helped support new, clean energy installer and engineering jobs here in CT...Jobs that CAN'T BE EXPORTED OVERSEAS!
- I'm producing more electricity than I can possibly use in the hottest months of the year thereby helping reduce the utility's need for expensive peak power plants.
- I'm helping to distribute the the generation of electricity thereby reducing the need for more utility transmission lines which are expensive and unsightly to install.
- I'm helping to stabilize utility rates for CT citizens by making the construction of peak power plants and transmission lines unnecessary and by reducing the demand for fossil fuels.
- I'm helping to make CT citizens safer by reducing - however little - our dependence on fossil fuels imported from countries that don't like us. Make no mistake, this is definitely a national security issue and the recent troubles in the Middle East should make that clear to all but the most casual observer.
- I'm improving the health of CT citizens by reducing the amount of air pollution produced from coal, oil and natural gas power plants.
- I'm reducing the risk of catastrophe to CT citizens by reducing the demand for dangerous nuclear power plants and the spent fuel they store on-site.
- Last, but by no means least, I'm helping to lessen the environmental impact and costs of climate change to our grandchildren.

Solar photovoltaic technology delivers a tremendous return on investment - in so many ways - to the citizens of CT and utility rate payers. My hope is that rational thinking will

prevail and the Energy and Technology Committee will pass Senate Bill 1 with a special emphasis on solar PV.

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