

Written Testimony of Joanne H. Choly 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:

- Comprehensive programs for the growth of renewable, sustainable energy
 - particularly solar power, in Connecticut
 - important in job creation
 - stabilizes electricity costs
 - reduces peak power needs
 - a solar renewable energy credit program that will enable 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 where environmentally appropriate
- 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.

Given dwindling fossil fuels, climate change from fossil fuel burning, unstable fossil fuel producing areas, the dangers and ultimate cost-ineffectiveness of nuclear power, pollution and health concerns and biodiversity damage from many energy sources... it boggles the mind to consider the insistence on unsustainable energy. This conventional energy thinking is backward looking, problem-growing, and a dead end. Sustainable energy and energy conservations are the only workable energy solutions for Connecticut, the nation, the globe – economically, health-wise, and environmentally.