



solar 

thermal 

wind 

**RE: S.B. No. 1
AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE
Energy & Technology Committee**

March 15, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Ron French, President of Alteris Renewables, the largest solar integrator in the Northeast.

I would like to thank you for allowing Alteris to submit testimony in regards to proposed S.B. No. 1. We would like to thank the committee, Senator Williams, and Senator Looney for their efforts on this legislation. Alteris Renewables supports S.B. No. 1. This bill is similar to the energy bill that was passed out of this committee last year, and then proceeded to pass in the House and Senate. Unfortunately it was vetoed by then Governor Rell. We now have an opportunity to complete what was close to being accomplished last year, and further the development of renewable energy in Connecticut.

Alteris Renewables has expanded its business operations where strong solar energy programs have been developed over the last couple of years. States such as Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Vermont and Pennsylvania have implemented some of the strongest solar energy laws in the country, which have created a market for both commercial and residential installations.

Our corporate headquarters is located in Wilton, CT and one of our solar engineering/installer offices is located in Stonington, CT. We currently have 30 employees in our Connecticut offices. Unfortunately, from 2009 to 2010, we have seen our business in Connecticut reduced by half, which means half as many homeowners and businesses have

installed solar power and that we employ half of the workforce in CT that we previously did. Without the passage of S.B. No.1, our 2011 business plan anticipates further lessening of demand and further employee cutbacks, this in the face of projected 100% growth in solar nationally. If this legislation is passed and becomes law, it will allow Alteris Renewables to maintain and expand its business operations in Connecticut by hiring additional engineering staff, operations staff and installation crews, which this bill will help create.

There are five reasons that make this legislation important to the state. First, its passage will **create green jobs** that have value in an energy efficient future. Second, it will **retain jobs** as it assists CT businesses in their quest for stable and cost-effective electricity sources. Third, it helps our environment by **providing a clean renewable source of power** versus alternative sources that create harmful side effects. Fourth, it helps the electric grid by **producing power at peak times** when alternatives are most expensive and most environmentally damaging. And finally, it demonstrates **hope and leadership to the next generation** as we show how a high standard of living does not need to be in conflict to human health and safety.

Passage of this legislation will send a signal to developers and installers of solar energy that Connecticut is ready to expand renewable energy development. We ask that the Energy & Technology committee continue its good work by passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Ron French

President

