



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

March 7, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent about 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports SB 1141 "*An Act Concerning Net Metering.*"

This bill would require each electric distribution company to provide virtual net metering to its customers and make any necessary interconnections for a virtual net metering facility.

Virtual net metering would allow municipalities and other end users the opportunity to utilize excess production from customer-sited solar energy systems to offset load at certain other facilities located within the utilities service territory.

Under the virtual net metering framework, individual customers can obtain a fractional interest in the output of a central solar facility. For instance, a municipality might install a fuel-cell or large solar system on under-utilized land and municipal facilities within that municipality can receive a credit on their bills for a portion of the renewable energy produced by that system.

This bill would make the installation of Class I renewable energy resources more economically viable for municipalities. The energy generated would offset a municipalities energy needs for town offices, schools, community centers, libraries, public works facilities and sewage treatment plants. This, in turn, will reduce costs to local taxpayers. Without the increased benefits provided by virtual net metering many of these projects would not be feasible.

CCM urges the committee to support this bill and favorably report it.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM
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