

Jason Ross, Partner
Ross Solar Group, LLC
72 Gray's Bridge Road, Suite 1C
Brookfield, CT 06804
Phone: 203-512-4500

February 24, 2011

Re: Raised House Bill No. 6337, AN ACT CLARIFYING THE SCOPE OF SOLAR ELECTRICITY WORK

Chairman Taborsak, Chairman Doyle and members of this committee:

My name is Jason Ross and I live in the 109th district within Danbury, Connecticut. I co-own and operate Ross Solar Group, LLC out of Brookfield, Connecticut. I am in support of Raised House Bill No. 6337 because it is critical to the development of green jobs in a high-revenue and fast-paced solar electric industry.

I am a SUNY Delhi School of Technology electrical construction graduate, and have been working in the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) industry in Connecticut for nearly six years. I am a licensed PV-1 limited electrical contractor. I have permitted 112 individual solar projects on residential, commercial, and institutional structures in Connecticut. All projects that I have permitted have also been electrically interconnected to the existing electrical system of the building both by our licensed employees and myself. Each of these projects have passed both municipal code inspections as well as the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) solar site inspection.

The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) is held as the nationwide benchmark of trade-based experience and photovoltaic design knowledge in the solar industry. There are eight individuals who are certified by NABCEP in the state of Connecticut, including myself, – three of which are PV license holders. One member is unlicensed in the state and only four are E license holders.

Until December of 2010, the holder of a PV-1 license was allowed by regulation to permit and install a complete and functional photovoltaic system. After the issuance of code bulletin December #12-2010 by the Electrical Work Board, the scope of the PV limited electrical license has become confusing and costly to the permitting and construction process. The released "clarification" now requires two licensed electrical contractors to permit each photovoltaic system. In no way does the governing national electrical code distinguish between wiring methods used throughout a PV system (including final interconnection) and those used only to make a final interconnection with the electrical grid.

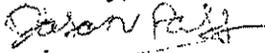
There are many aspects to a solar electric system that can be uncommon to even a seasoned electrician. A large portion of solar work is not electrical, and these non-electrical aspects of a solar installation must be harmonious with the electrical system. This requires that any individual license holder be knowledgeable about the entire system as a whole.

As the solar industry grows in states like California, Nevada, and Florida, electrical licenses have been issued and adopted specifically for solar work. California, as one of the largest solar markets in the world, allow the holder of their C-10, and C-46 licenses to perform all work relating to solar electrical systems, including final interconnections to grid. In the State of Connecticut, the electrical work board has altered the scope of the PV license. Without protective legislation, the ability to meet the needs of Connecticut's solar industry will be limited.

The State of Connecticut has the opportunity to be on the forefront of solar industry development. The proposed Bill No. 6337 is a critical step in the successful accomplishment of this goal.

I do appreciate your attention and concern for this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Ross".

Jason Ross

NABCEP #031508-67 State of CT [ELC.0194500-PV1]