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**March 15, 2011**

**Senator John Fonfara, Representative Vickie Nardello  
Energy and Technology Committee  
Legislative office Building  
300 Capital Ave.  
Hartford, CT**

**Subject: Comments to Committee on passage of a long-term solar strategy (S.B. 1) for Connecticut**

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Jeff Lendroth and I represent the "Renewable Energy" business arm of the Pat Munger Construction Company of Branford, CT.

We are a General Contractor firm, whom designs and builds commercial and industrial buildings. We take great pride in the long-lasting relationships that have been forged with our clients, those alliances are, in essence the lifeblood of the company that recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary doing business in Connecticut!

The company three years ago expanded Pat Munger Construction's presence into the "green market", acquiring LEED Accredited Professional certifications and applying those practices. In 2009 and 2010 our company embarked on an initiative to further expand into the renewable and sustainable energy areas, engaging in Geothermal and Photovoltaic solutions. We are proud of the milestones we've accomplished, installing Solar Photovoltaic generation capacity of over 161,000 Kilowatts on Connecticut commercial buildings that contribute to the distributed electric generation within the state and offset over 125 tons of CO2 per year.

I joined the company in late 2010 after a long technical and management career with a major Information Technology and Consulting Company headquartered in Armonk, NY. At 50 years old, in early 2009 I became a "statistic" as a result of my employer's reorganization activity, and subsequent "resource actions". After 30 years of employment I joined the ranks of the unemployed.

Having been involved in an ancillary capacity with Renewable Energy, the conservation fields and the Smart-Grid with my previous employer I was extremely enthusiastic to transition into this exciting field of Renewable Energy and "Green Technology"... **It is all about change. I am excited to be a "CHANGE AGENT" !**

My comments at this hearing today to the Energy and Technology Committee are directed towards numerous Bills under consideration, directly related to Energy and Solar. These include the following Bills:

- HB06582 An Act concerning expanding the State's Solar energy economy.
- SB00001 An act concerning Connecticut's energy future.
- SB01141 An act concerning net metering.
- HB06386 An act establishing the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- HB06337 An act clarifying the scope of Solar electricity work
- HB06024 An act concerning incentives for the Solar industry
- HB06033 An act concerning renewable energy incentives
- SB00632 An act concerning virtual net metering

**I wish to comment of two specific areas:**

1. Incentives to induce adoption of On-Site Distributed Solar Electric and Solar Thermal Generation.
2. HB06337, Scope of Solar Electricity work

General Comments:

Connecticut and this great nation are at a crossroads concerning our energy future and energy policies, its impact economically here in Connecticut and to the nation will define our society and the livelihood and standard of living of our children and their children. A quality, long term Renewable Energy Policy is absolutely needed at this time within Connecticut. We must embrace change, it is time for change!

**Incentives to Induce Solar Adoption:** The current methods via the CCEF to incentivize adoption of Solar simply are inadequate and defy standard means to quantify and justify a commercial business's investment with this technology. The current OSDG RFP process is cyclic, offering funding at intervals far to elongated for reasonable planning efforts. As evidence, the current offering was announced in Nov. 2010, "RFP bids" due Feb. 28, 2011, funding letters 90 days after review of proposal... At least a 180 day cycle. Next OSDG RFP is even further elongated: July 1, 2011 offering announced. "RFP bids" due Nov. 18, 2011, funding letters 90 days after review of Proposal... At least a 231 day cycle.

The Grant dollar amount per watt of Solar electricity is "subjective"... Based on "Applications whose overall ratepayer impacts are the lowest." "Final funding amounts offered by CCEF to an applicant will be at the sole discretion of CCEF". Terms, Conditions and Documentation are rigorous; in many cases defy reasonable expectations enabling constructive forward momentum and progress with the initiative. **Change is needed.**

It is nearly impossible, in most cases to "sell" a Commercial Renewable Energy Project to a CFO or Business Owner under the current system of incentives. There simply are too many financial variables, and process (risk) to justify the financial analysis and support a positive business decision.

**I seek to ask this committee to adopt a more standardized and non-subjective method to incentivize Connecticut Small and Commercial Business's to adopt On-Site Distributed Solar Electric Generation. A quality SREC program is needed.**

**Benefit to the State of Connecticut and its People and Business:** Job creation #1... At Pat Munger Construction Company, our expectation is that a cohesive, Renewable Energy Strategy, driven by incentives such as SRECs would enable Munger to hire an additional five (5) full time employees to support two installation crews. This expansion would benefit numerous tradespersons, suppliers, professionals, etc. that are typically involved in construction projects such as these. **The down-stream effect on GDP (gross domestic product) is exponential.**

Job creation via "green workers" within the State of Connecticut could have a huge impact on displaced workers such as Telecom and Information Technology workers. The solar industry and a defined educational training regimen offered at Career High schools and Community Colleges could offer great potential to train our youth and displaced workers. These jobs can never be "out-sourced" off US soil, offer decent wages, and are a "stepping stone" towards entry into many ancillary technical and trade fields.

**Why Act Now?** It is critical to enact a cohesive policy that allows business such as Munger to have dependable long term incentives that remain constant. It is impossible under current legislation to invest in a workforce, to manage a workforce, and invest in our business given the cyclic nature of the current policy. Good policy is paramount to creating demand and sales that lead to business expansion.

**Change is needed now, the future is upon us:** Electric Vehicles will have the greatest effect and impact on the current electric grid. Smart grid and technology such as Solar Photovoltaic can have a significant impact on this new challenge and load. Solar offers the best means to deal with PEEK DEMAND issues faced within Connecticut. Solar On-site Distributed Generation and Smart Inverters are the most adaptable means for achieving the ever increasing demands for electricity in the face of diminishing fossil fuel.

**HB06337, Scope of Solar Electricity work:** It has been my observation, directly on the frontline, working on commercial Solar PV installations that a gap exists between the realities of installation tasks and those whom have a preference to exclude or narrow the scope efforts by competent and trained individuals. I would ask this legislative body to examine carefully the criteria to limit duties of licensed PV-2 and PV-1 individuals. There is no basis for discouraging credentialed, properly trained and knowledgeable Solar Installers from completing mechanical and electrical tasks typical to the Solar industry. My observation is that in every installation I have been involved with, the Licensed EI Electricians that I have had the pleasure to work with are very content with sharing the work tasks. In fact, most will comment that Solar, Inverters and the nuances of Direct Current (DC) produced by a typical Solar PV System is an area that is considered a "specialty trade".

**Why Act Now?** A narrowing of tasks and scope of work allowed for PV-1 or PV-2 License holders will only further exasperate a limited contingent of the trained and motivated work-force required for this industry. With proper training and experience, a licensed PV-1 or PV-2 holder should be enabled to perform all tasks including the supervisor of labor required for the physical build-out of a typical Solar PV system. Additionally, more consideration should be allowed by the Licensure Board for candidates such as dis-placed workers (lacking journey-person time) who have experience in related fields, education and experience to qualify for PV-1 and PV-2 License testing to augment the trade workforce.

Consideration by this committee should be given towards review of the technical diversity of the Licensure Board and policies associated with Solar PV licensure.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at any time via my mobile phone at 203-640-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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