

STAR POWER, LLC

174 Old South Road
Southport, CT 06890
203.339.5579

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Planning and Development Committee
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Raised H.B. No. 5538

STATEMENT OF SUPORT

Star Power, LLC is a company formed with the express purpose of promoting the installation of Solar PV systems on commercial buildings in Connecticut. The company operates on the premise that the most effective promotion comes from the actual construction and ongoing operation of these systems on small commercial buildings - the most common and visible types of buildings found statewide. Star Power, LLC further attempts to construct it systems on non-profit organizations' buildings with the expectation that the communities involved with these organizations are involved and vocal. When solar power becomes plainly visible on our churches, schools, and community centers, people will begin to take notice and consider such installations on their own small buildings.

The major barrier to progress in the number of commercial solar installations is cost. While costs are coming down, the small business and non-profit sectors are simply not in a position to make long term investments. Star Power, LLC provides the financing to make solar power viable to these customers. The additional tax burden imposed by property taxes causes the installation of solar power to be almost impossible to justify. Many governmental efforts are being made to assist those who are willing to take the risk to install solar power and every effort makes a difference. I urge the Legislature to pass H.B. No. 5538 as an additional step towards increasing the use of this renewable energy source in our state. An increase in demand will surely result in an accelerated downward trend in costs and an improvement in technology -- a win/win for all of us.

Benjamin M. Baker
Owner, Star Power, LLC.