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State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Testimony for Sen. Andrew Roraback (R-30) Minority Caucus Leader

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5538 – AN ACT
CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SOLAR INSTALLATIONS.

The State of Connecticut supports efforts by individuals to add solar, wind, and other “green” technologies to their homes. This is supported through a system of tax credits and exemptions at the federal and state level. The goal of these efforts is to help residents of Connecticut who wish to reduce the burdens of relying on traditional energy sources. At the same time, the state legislature has set many goals over the years to increase the use of “renewable” and/or “green” technology in Connecticut.

Given the need to both expand the use of more environmentally friendly energy sources and reduce the expenses born by energy consumers, this bill seeks to expand the universe of those eligible for property tax exemptions connected with alternative sources of energy. Specifically, this bill would allow small businesses to convert to green energy technology without the requirement that they pay property tax on the equipment which produces “green” energy. This bill could help tip the balance in favor of “green” energy as businesses calculate the costs and benefits of converting to clean technology.