

**MARCH 7, 2013 TESTIMONY FROM SOLAR CONNECTICUT, INC. IN SUPPORT OF HB 6363 AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY.**

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Rep. Reed, Rep. Hoydick, Sen. Duff, Sen. Chapin, and members of the Energy & Technology committee, my name is Noel Lafayette. I am a member of Solar Connecticut and today I am presenting our members support and the support of others for the sections of Governor Malloy's Comprehensive Energy Strategy in H.B. No. 6360 as it relates to virtual net metering.

Late last year, *SolarConn* created a coalition of businesses in the solar, wind and fuel cell industries, end users, and others interested in clean energy, to come together to recommend improvements to the existing virtual net metering law (Sec. 5. Section 16-244u of the Connecticut General Statutes). It's our belief that the reason no clean energy projects have been completed under the current virtual net metering law is that the law is seriously flawed.

After months of consideration our coalition has agreed on a number of critical changes necessary to allow virtual net metering to flourish in Connecticut. Those changes are detailed on the attached mark-up of HB 6360.

In brief, the changes are:

1. Allow for 3<sup>rd</sup> party financing either in leases or Power Purchase Agreements in long term contracts.
2. Allow for commercial, agricultural as well as municipal and state facilities to install/participate/finance VNM facilities.
3. "Virtual net metering credit" means a credit equal to the retail cost per kilowatt hour the customer host may have otherwise been charged for each kilowatt hour produced by a virtual net metering facility.
4. Allow for up to ten beneficial accounts per host customer if within same utility service area, and an additional five accounts if utilizing a microgrid.
5. Raise VNM cap from 10 million to 2% of the said utilities peak load.

Again, the specific changes we as a coalition are detailed in the attached mark-up. Also included is a matrix prepared by one of our coalition members that compares our changes to the existing law and the virtual net metering changes included in HB 6360.

Let it also be said that SolarConn also supports Bill 5587 regarding sub-metering.

I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.