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Testimony of the City of New Haven Before the Energy and Technology Committee

Regarding

SB 203 AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Submitted by

Giovanni Zinn, Office of Sustainability, City of New Haven
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Senator Duff, Representative Reed, and members of the Committee,

The City of New Haven is pleased to have the opportunity to comment in support of SB 203 AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

The State of Connecticut has made renewable energy implementation a priority throughout the state. However, for commercial and industrial customers, the investment in their own source of clean, renewable energy comes with an additional property tax burden that slims down the thin economic margins that on-site renewable generation relies upon.

By extending the property tax exemption to commercial and industrial customers, SB 203 incentivizes the increased adoption of renewable energy technologies in the state and ensures that businesses who invest in clean energy technologies can predict with accuracy the cost of running these systems.

The success of our renewable energy investments can be seen in cleaner communities that are much more conscious about their energy use. Property tax exemptions and other tax mitigation measures for renewable energy systems are widespread throughout the country and have encouraged communities to adopt renewable energy technologies as sensible and practical investments.

By reducing the cost of energy for businesses in our communities, renewable energy systems help businesses retain jobs and create new economic activity that is less reliant on fossil fuels and environmental degradation. Extending the property tax exemption to commercial and industrial customers will ensure the long-term viability of renewable energy systems in the commercial/industrial sector, leading our state to more sustainable communities both environmentally and economically. Thank you for your time.

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