



Testimony of:
Connecticut Fund for the Environment



In Support of
S.B. No. 203, An Act Concerning Property Tax Exemptions for
Renewable Energy Sources
S.B. No. 949, An Act Establishing Commercial and Industrial
Property Tax Exemptions for Clean Energy Projects

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

March 5, 2013

Submitted by Mark LeBel, Energy Fellow

Connecticut Fund for the Environment is a non-profit organization that, along with its regional program Save the Sound, works to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound on behalf of its 5,500 members. We develop partnerships and use legal and scientific expertise to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Senator Duff, Representative Reed, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment submits this testimony in support of efforts to expand the current property tax exemptions for renewable energy installations and other clean energy investments. Both **S.B. 203** and **S.B. 949** would accomplish this goal in different ways. Under the current statutes, several different categories of clean energy investments are exempted from property taxation. See Section 12-81(56), (57), (62), and (63). Notably, these provisions include an automatic exemption for renewable energy installations for residential properties with fewer than five units and farms as well as authorizations for municipalities to exempt cogeneration systems. **S.B. 203** would provide an automatic exemption for renewable energy projects installed for commercial or industrial use. By contrast, **S.B. 949** allows a municipality to exempt a broader range of clean energy projects at commercial and industrial properties and explicitly includes residential properties with five or more units. The most effective policy would be to take elements from both of these bills: the broader scope of **S.B. 949** and the automatic exemption of **S.B. 203**.

These two bills represent productive steps to take and the Committee should strongly consider combining their best features.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

____/s/_____

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