



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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### Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing March 5, 2013

Dear Chairmen Duff and Reed, Ranking Members Chapin and Hoydick, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am writing in *opposition to Proposed Bill No. 203 and rSB No 949* which gives property tax exemptions to any Class I renewable energy source installed for the generation of electricity for commercial and industrial use.

The Town of Somers was very excited last year to learn HelioSage would build a solar energy project in the community. The municipal leaders expressed that these types of projects should not qualify for any municipal tax exemption. The developers of this project knew the costs of building the facility prior to applying for and obtaining state and federal subsidies. The project developers knew that they would be responsible to the Town of Somers for property taxes. Now, with the plans already in place to move forward, HelioSage is requesting a tax abatement. If approved, the taxpayers in Somers would lose out on two million dollars in potential tax revenue over time.

The municipal leaders have asked me to oppose this legislation, on behalf of the taxpayers of the Town of Somers. Please note that the project is not creating any substantial jobs, nor will any of the energy produced be directed to the Town.

During times of such economic difficulty, when town and family budgets are under duress, this is not the type of legislation that our municipalities want to see.

I oppose **Proposed Bill 203 and rSB No 949**, and respectfully urge the Committee to vote against it. Thank you.