



March 18, 2013

Re: SB1138 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN ENERGY GOALS

Dear Chairman Duff, Chairwoman Reed and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I write to express the Solar Energy Industry's (SEIA) concerns with newly introduced SB 1138, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Clean Energy Goals. Our specific concerns are outlined below.

SEIA is the national trade association of the United States solar industry, encompassing all solar technologies, including photovoltaics (PV), concentrating solar power, solar heating and cooling, and other technologies. Through advocacy and education, SEIA and its 1,000 member companies work to make solar energy a significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry, and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. SEIA's membership includes many companies with offices and facilities in Connecticut.

As currently drafted, the legislation assumes hydropower will always be the lowest cost resource. While hydro *may* be cost competitive its environmental and financial costs (new transmission lines, etc) should be acknowledged.

The primary provisions of the bill, include the following:

- Revises the existing Class I by revising eligibility to certain hydro resources from run-of-river hydro of less than 5MW to Low Impact Hydropower Institute Certified hydro up to 30W;
- Adds Class I contracted tier renewable resource – creates a new RPS class for any class I or hydro facility going into operation after 1/1/03 located in or adjacent to New England; and,
- Provides Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP with contracting ability for Class I and Class I contracted tier renewable resource.

Connecticut has a successful and burgeoning renewable energy industry. The benefits of the current RPS include in-state jobs, investment and increasingly cost-effective solar installations. In order to ensure future growth of these and encourage additional investment in clean energy a lowest cost, we recommend the state avoid significant changes to the current RPS. Should the legislation advance, we suggest the following amendments:

- Maintain RPS targets for Class I at current levels of 20% and beyond,
- Include hydro only as a separate class which is not awarded RECs, and
- Include long term contracting, similar to the provisions in Section 5 of the bill, to reduce the costs of renewable and clean energy development. Competitively bid, long-term contracts have proven successful in terms of driving down costs for ratepayers while encouraging investment.

I would be happy to provide more detail on solar's involvement in Connecticut.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Cullen Hitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carrie" being the most prominent.

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