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Testimony in Support of House Bill 5412

Dear Energy Committee Member,

I am writing to encourage your support for the bill currently before your committee, "An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities." I have recently signed a contract to have a solar photovoltaic system installed on my property in the Town of Hamden. This zero emission renewable energy system will potentially cover all of my and my wife's electrical usage. Mounting the solar panels on the roof of our house would not have been an ideal setup, but luckily we are in a position to have the panels ground-mounted in our backyard.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for upwards of 75% of the residents in Connecticut, who for varying reasons do not have a suitable site for renewable energy on their own property and cannot access affordable clean energy.

This act will enable all energy customers to participate in shared clean energy facilities and receive credit on their utility bill for their portion of the clean energy produced. Passage of the act will benefit renters, condo-owners, and homeowners with tree-shaded or otherwise unsuitable homes and enable them to directly benefit from the state's clean energy programs they pay into on every utility bill.

It also benefits everyone in the state by reducing the need to run expensive and polluting power plants at peak times when solar and other clean energy technologies such as wind work best. It will also boost the Connecticut solar industry, attract new investment from local and nation-wide solar companies, and potentially create thousand of new in-state jobs.