



TESTIMONY FROM MICHAEL TRAHAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOLAR CONNECTICUT, INC., AND THE CONSORTIUM FOR SOLAR LIGHTING IN SUPPORT OF H.B. No. 5116 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOLAR LIGHTING SYSTEMS WITH SUGGESTED AMENDED LANGUAGE

Solar Connecticut supports property and sales tax exempts and incentives for clean and renewable technologies that allow Connecticut residential and commercial property owners to reduce their energy bill, and encourage the use of clean sources of energy. This includes solar lighting systems.

HB 5116 speaks to technologies that, " ... integrates the use of sunlight and efficient, electric lighting with a common fixture to illuminate the interior of a building." The bill seems to address rooftop through-the-roof daylighting systems that illuminate a building's interior.

The bill appropriately supports businesses wishing to reduce their energy bill that address the interior of their building but ignores building owners who are required to illuminate the exterior of their buildings. Our suggestion is to include in HB 5116 systems using sunlight that illuminate a building's exterior in the form of outdoor solar lighting.

Outdoor solar lighting is described as autonomous (independent of the electrical grid) light poles powered by solar energy. These systems collect solar energy during the day and store the power in batteries. The lights then turn on during the evening and run off battery power. The technology utilizes a solar collector, a luminaire and batteries to store the energy created. Solar lighting products offer cost-effective, reliable alternatives to conventional lighting technology. Applications include roadways, parking lots, bus shelters, parks and trails.

Our suggested amendment to technologies described in subdivision (27) of subsection (a) of section 16-1, reads " ... **or solar powered outdoor lighting system that integrates photovoltaic panels with [solid state] electric lighting, energy storage and common fixture to illuminate public spaces.**"

Support for outdoor solar lighting will benefit the Connecticut commercial ZREC program and the residential finance programs developed by CEFIA. The solar electric (photovoltaic) panels used in solar lighting applications are similar to panels used in rooftop and ground mount applications. Supporting the use of outdoor solar lighting will increase solar panel manufacturing productivity and led to lower price of panels used in Connecticut. As panel prices decline, so to will the need for ratepayer supported programs.