

**Submitted by**

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Testimony in support of

**HB 5412, An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities**

**This bill would allow residents to invest in a shared renewable system and then receive full credit for their portion of the electricity generated right on their electricity bill.**

This is an important step in the fight for access to clean, affordable renewable energy in Connecticut. It would allow communities to band together and use common sites to produce solar power for people in locations with small roofs and too much shade such as crowded inner-city neighborhoods or tree-shaded rural and suburban areas

Why this is important: until recently, the clean energy fund and efficiency funds mostly benefitted corporations and well-off people to acquire solar power. They were subsidized by all ratepayers, including working families and low-income families, who paid the clean energy charge on the electric bill. Many communities have had virtually no good options to receive the benefits of solar power, yet everyone still has had to pay the clean energy charge.

This bill could change this picture in significant ways if employed fairly to bring solar power to all communities. It would allow people in crowded urban areas or with shaded properties or small roof areas to band with others to use common sites to generate solar power and divide the energy produced to receive full credit for the solar energy produced right on their monthly electric bill. 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 contribute into.

Bringing this energy to congested urban centers in particular can help reduce CO2 and other pollutants in these heavily polluted neighborhoods. It can also help reduce energy costs and, as more solar comes online, help reduce the most costly "peak" power costs for the state as a whole for which we are currently being penalized by a federal tax on our energy and must compensate for by running expensive, polluting, turbine power plants.

I hope you will take this opportunity to strengthen Connecticut clean energy policy and improve our environment and economy.

Thank you for you time.