

Testimony of Janet Bellamy for the
CGA Energy and Technology Public Hearing
March 4, 2014

Testimony in support of HB 5412,
An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities

Dear Senator Duff, Representative Reed and honorable members of the Energy Committee.

I am writing to encourage your support for the bill currently before your committee, "An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities" H.B No. 5412.

While the cost of renewable energy is now competitive with traditional power, the majority of Connecticut homeowners cannot access this affordable clean energy, because they do not have a suitable site for renewable energy on their own property. Or, as in my case, they have a small homes with low energy costs but would like to participate in 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 concerning shared clean energy facilities will open up access to affordable clean energy to the 75% of customers who cannot put it on their own property: renters, condo-owners, and homeowners with tree-shaded or otherwise unsuitable homes. The bill will make it possible for Connecticut energy customers to benefit from the state's clean energy programs. All customers contribute to these programs, and all should benefit from them, even if they don't own property. It will also boost the Connecticut solar industry, attract new investment from national solar companies, and create thousands of new in-state jobs.

In the long run, more clean energy households will decrease demand for "dirty" energy and the need for additional energy sources. This bill is a "win-win" for all concerned and I urge you to vote for it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 5412, An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities.

Sincerely,

Janet Bellamy
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