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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5412:
An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities**

Connecticut is considering a visionary bill which will expand access to solar energy greatly throughout the state. HB 5412 allows for billing arrangements to support groups of residents in banding together to create and utilize a single renewable energy system for a group of households or businesses.

Shared renewable energy might be a solar installation serving an urban neighborhood by subscription; a small wind turbine benefitting a cluster of rural homes; or a hydro dam serving several adjacent businesses in a revitalized mill town.

These systems are more cost-effective than smaller, individual installations. And they close a critical fairness gap by making the benefits of clean energy equally available to everyone, owners and renters alike, whether or not their roof faces south.

By passing this bill, Connecticut would be joining recognized clean energy leaders like Colorado, California and Massachusetts. The state would be advancing its commitment to clean energy jobs and business opportunities in a significant way. Already, Solarize CT has established Connecticut as a vibrant labor market for the solar industry. Allowing for shared renewables will expand that opportunity, retain and grow those businesses, and make Connecticut even more of a leader in the clean energy economy.