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CLEAN ENERGY
FINANCE AND INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

**Statement of the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority
Regarding Raised Bill No. 5139**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
SOLAR PANELS ON PRIME FARMLAND**

The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA), Connecticut's Green Bank, appreciates the opportunity to comment on Raised Bill No. 5139, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON PRIME FARMLAND.

CEFIA believes the intent of this proposed bill does not address the underlying concern of discouraging large solar photovoltaic (PV) grid supply projects on prime farmlands and forests. CEFIA has not funded large-scale solar PV projects on prime farmland and does not have programs that incentivize or finance large grid-level solar PV projects. CEFIA's solar programs are focused on smaller rooftop solar PV projects designed to provide power to the building they are attached to.

CEFIA respectfully requests that its enabling language and definition of clean energy remain unchanged. We further believe that there are sufficient non-legislative ways to address siting considerations in state procurement and financing support for projects on prime farmland and forests. Specifically, CEFIA believes that this issue can be adequately addressed at the agency level through clear policy statements from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Department of Agriculture and CEFIA.

Projects utilizing ratepayer dollars should first target other available sites such as brownfields, other disturbed public lands and the continued development of rooftop solar PV projects.

As the nation's first green bank, CEFIA leverages public and private funds to drive investment and scale up clean energy deployment in Connecticut. CEFIA looks forward to supporting the legislature's and Governor's vision of cleaner, cheaper and more reliable energy sources for Connecticut – while creating jobs and supporting local economic development.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments.