



**Connecticut Conference  
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-6004

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 928:**

**An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities and House Bill 6838: An Act Concerning the Encouragement of Local Economic Development and Access to Residential Renewable Energy**

**Submitted by: Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate**

**Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ**

**March 18, 2015**

Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 928: An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities and House Bill 6838: An Act Concerning the Encouragement of Local Economic Development and Access to Residential Renewable Energy.

I am writing on behalf of the 240 congregations and more than 73,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 1979, the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution which calls upon the Connecticut Conference to urge churches and their membership to save our energy resources, suggesting appropriate measures, and to lobby and speak up for an effort to find safe alternative energy sources.

**Senate Bill 928: An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities**

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ supports shared clean energy facilities since they offer the exciting promise of community-focused clean power and could help cut energy costs for Connecticut residents and businesses. Shared Clean Energy facilities have the potential to spread the economic benefits of clean energy more widely, since not everyone can put solar panels on their roof.<sup>1</sup>

In order to strengthen Connecticut's progress in growing the residential solar power market, we must bring access to renewable energy to a broader range of Connecticut's residents; specifically renters and other residents whose homes are not appropriate for solar power. Shared clean energy facilities provide clean energy options for more of our population (including low and moderate income residents), reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease our reliance on carbon intensive energy sources. This bill will put Connecticut on par with other states, such as Massachusetts, that have shared clean energy programs. A shared clean energy program will enable Connecticut residents to enjoy the many financial and environmental benefits of clean, renewable energy and for the state to reap the benefits of economic development and job creation.<sup>2</sup>

**House Bill 6838: An Act Concerning the Encouragement of Local Economic Development and Access to Residential Renewable Energy**

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ supports House Bill 6838 which would increase the pool of funding for direct financial incentives for residential solar PV. The use of targeted,

<sup>1</sup> Acadia Center

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University



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market-based incentives to overcome the market barriers that prevent solar PV and clean energy from achieving widespread consumer adoption makes sense and is environmentally smart.<sup>3</sup>

The interest in residential solar continues to grow and the costs of solar have been reduced significantly. Progress in achieving the expanded goal will save ratepayers money, promote economic development, create energy jobs in Connecticut, and reduce Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>4</sup>

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ supports Senate Bill 928: An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities and House Bill 6838: An Act Concerning the Encouragement of Local Economic Development and Access to Residential Renewable Energy and we recommend that shared clean energy and access to residential renewable energy be available to all people, regardless of their income levels.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to supply written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 928 and House Bill 6838.

Blessings,  
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