

## Shaiken, Benjamin

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**From:** Terry Sullivan <secreterry@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015 9:09 PM  
**To:** ETTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on SB-730

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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TESTIMONY OF J. Terry Sullivan  
TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
ON PROPOSED BILL SB-730

AN ACT PROHIBITING HOMEOWNER OR CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH OR PREVENTING  
INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.

Senator Doyle, Rep Reed, Rep Ackert, Sen Formica and members of the Committee:

My name is Terry Sullivan, I live in Heritage Village in Southbury, CT and I am the Vice President of the Heritage Village Master Association and Trustee for the Condominium 12 Board of Directors. I want you to know that Heritage Village in 2014 installed its first solar PVC panels on one of our units. The town of Southbury is participating in Solarize Connecticut and we are cooperating with the Solarize Southbury project. We are scheduling an informational session on Solarize Southbury early next month. In addition, we are exploring commercial solar panels that can power our maintenance facilities.

I bring the above to your attention to show that in Heritage Village we are not anti-solar panels; however, I am opposed to SB-730 as it stands now.

The problem I have with SB-730 is that in its current form it prohibits us from setting those necessary limits on installation of the panels. The statement of purpose for SB-730 says it is to allow common interest owners to install solar panels, but the bill seeks to amend the statutes to PROHIBIT homeowner or condominium associations from INTERFERING or PREVENTING installation of solar systems by the residents. That is strong language. Heritage Village was built as an all-electric community in 1967. All of the original 2580 units were built with electric heating panels. If any condominium community could make good use of solar PVC systems it is Heritage Village. Our electric cost sometimes run as high as \$1000 during cold winter months. We are always looking for ways that our owners can lower their heating bills and certainly solar panel are one solution. But we do need sensible regulations and specifications that need to be met so that we CAN install solar panels.

I support amending SB-720 to allow condominium and homeowners associations the ability to regulate the installation of solar panels. As with satellite dishes, we cannot forbid their installation, but we may regulate where and how they are installed. There are locations where dishes cannot receive a signal and installation of a satellite dish would be futile. The same is true for solar panels, there will be locations where installation is impossible. We need a law that encourages solar PVC installations, but permits reasonable accommodations that allow homeowners associations the ability to protect their investment. After all, the associations are the owners of the roofs.

Thank you.

Terry Sullivan

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