



Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association, Inc. c/o Murtha Cullina LLP | CityPlace 1 | 185 Asylum Street | Hartford, CT 06103 | 860-240-6131

Testimony of Mike Martone

On Behalf of

The Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association (REEBA)

Representative Reed, Senator Doyle, Representative Ackert, Senator Formica and members of the committee, my name is Mike Martone, the lobbyist for REEBA, the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association. REEBA is comprised of over 70 companies, both large and small, which are committed to growing the renewable energy industry in Connecticut. Our members come from all parts of the renewables world. Wind, solar, geothermal, fuel cell and anaerobic digestion companies make up the diverse membership of REEBA.

- H.B. No. 6983 AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURAL CUSTOMERS AND VIRTUAL NET METERING.

We support the new language found in lines 6 and 7 of Section 1 which allows the owners of farmland to lease or enter into long-term contracts for an agricultural virtual net metering facility. Current law requires the farm owner to own the solar facility which can result in significant out-of-pocket expenses. The new language gives the owner an option. The farm owner can pursue a project alone or contract with a solar developer or enter into a long term lease agreement.

However, we ask the committee to amend section 16-244u, subsection (e) which sets the virtual new metering cap at \$10 million and limits the municipal, state and agricultural customer hosts to no more than 40% of the overall fund. The municipal segment is the most active by far. So it's very likely that we will have many more municipal projects than the 40% cap allows while the number of state and agricultural projects may not reach the threshold. We have submitted language that would raise the virtual net metering cap to \$40 Million and eliminate the 40% restriction. Our proposed language is attached.

- H.B. No. 6838 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY.

We support the Solar Home Renewable Energy Credit proposal, commonly known as SHREC because it will take the residential solar industry to the next level.

The Green Bank has done a spectacular job in promoting residential solar. They have greatly exceeded expectations and are now ready to do even more. SHREC will reduce demand on the grid, allow Connecticut to reach Governor Malloy's goal of 300 MW of residential solar by 2022 and create good paying jobs in the solar industry.

From the consumers' point of view, they will see stable electric prices, a quicker payback on their investment and increased home values.

- H.B. No. 6020 AN ACT CONCERNING ANAEROBIC DIGESTION.

AD is a mature technology becoming "Americanized" and seeing more deployment in the US for processing biosolids and food waste. AD facilities are capital intensive, costing from \$10-\$15M for a 1MW facility and this financing program helps developers meet the high capital cost requirements. AD can be a key tool for Connecticut to produce renewable CNG or electricity while helping to meet critical waste diversion goals. This program helps the Green Bank stay equipped to help this unique and promising technology come to fruition in Connecticut and should therefore be extended so that it remains viable for future developers.

- S.B. No. 928 AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITIES.

REEBA strongly supports the concept of Shared Solar. Clearly Connecticut is in the forefront in promoting renewable energy and authorizing the development of Shared Clean Energy Facilities is the next logical step. Residents of Connecticut want more clean energy but a large percentage cannot install a renewable energy system on their property. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts have enacted legislation authorizing shared solar programs. Connecticut should follow suit. We encourage the development of projects owned by for profits, nonprofits and municipalities.

- S.B. No. 1049 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS AND VIRTUAL NET METERING.

REEBA supports the utilization and ownership of a variety of renewable technologies and allowing the development of municipally owned hydroelectric facilities is consistent with that policy.

- S.B. No. 1079 AN ACT CONCERNING WATER COMPANIES AND VIRTUAL NET METERING.

We support the inclusion of water companies as virtual net metering hosts. Treating and distributing public water supplies requires a great deal of energy, well in excess of 50% of a utility's annual budget and a significant portion of our country's energy load. Allowing regional water authorities to participate in virtual net metering is sound public policy/

- H.B. No. 6940 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY PILOT PROGRAM.

REEBA opposes this bill which would create a 3 year pilot program for shared clean energy facilities. It is unnecessary. Projects are already in place in Arizona, the State of Washington, Colorado, Minnesota and Massachusetts and there is clear evidence that they are successful and have been well received by the public. A pilot program will only delay implementation and will cause investors and developers to move to states where greater opportunities exist.

- H.B. No. 6990 AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITIES OF THE FUTURE.

REEBA supports a PURA study of utilities of the future, and would offer the expertise and knowledge of our members as a resource to PURA.

- H.B. No. 6995 AN ACT CONCERNING A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM.

Finally, REEBA supports expanding the very successful CPACE program to residential customers. This would give individuals the ability to defer the upfront costs that sometimes prevent energy efficiency projects from moving forward. While supporting and advocating for renewable energy projects we all need to be mindful that the cheapest energy is that which is saved through efficiency.

Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association (REEBA)
Proposed Changed to Section 16-244u (e)

(e) On or before October 1, [2013] 2015, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall conduct a proceeding to develop the administrative processes and program specifications including, but not limited to, a cap of [ten million dollars] 40 million dollars per year apportioned to each electric distribution company based on consumer load for credits provided to beneficial accounts pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and payments made pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, [provided the municipal, state and agricultural customer hosts, each in the aggregate, and the designated beneficial accounts of such customer hosts, shall receive not more than forty percent of the dollar amount established pursuant to this section.]