



At Eastern Connecticut
State University

**Testimony of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University
Before the Energy and Technology Committee**

Submitted by

Lynn Stoddard, Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University

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Senator Paul Doyle, Representative Lonnie Reed, and distinguished members of the committee:

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University is an objective energy and educational resource working to achieve a sustainable energy future for Connecticut. Established by the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System in 2001, the Institute advances the adoption of practical, cost-effective solutions and strategies that increase energy efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. We provide support to municipalities, state agencies, colleges and universities, K-12 schools, and others through education, research, and technical assistance.

The Institute supports the following bills and encourages committee members to vote in favor:

- **Support for SB 928 AAC Shared Clean Energy Facilities** – The Institute supports this bill. In order to build on Connecticut’s progress in growing the residential solar power market, we must enable access to renewable energy to a broader range of Connecticut’s residents, specifically renters and other residents whose homes are not appropriate sites for solar power. Shared clean energy facilities will provide clean energy options for more of our population (including low and moderate income residents), boost Connecticut’s clean energy economy, save consumers money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our reliance on carbon intensive energy sources. This bill will put Connecticut on par with other states across the country that have shared clean energy programs, including Massachusetts, keeping Connecticut competitive in the renewable energy market. Eastern Connecticut State University is pleased to be the first university in Connecticut to launch “Solarize U,” a program through which we are promoting the benefits of solar and the CT Green Bank’s incentives and financing programs to our employees. We have learned that as many as 80% of Connecticut residents interested in the traditional residential solar program may have homes that are not suitable for solar. A shared clean energy program will enable this large group of 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.
- **Support for HB 6838 AAC the Encouragement of Local Economic Development and Access to Residential Renewable Energy** – The Institute supports the expansion of the Connecticut Green Bank’s (CGB) residential solar investment program to 300 megawatts by the end of 2022. CGB’s residential solar investment program has achieved the 30 megawatt goal well ahead of schedule. 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 additional clean energy jobs in Connecticut, and reduce Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Support for HB 7009 AAC Electric and Zero-Emission Vehicles** – The Institute strongly endorses development of a comprehensive foundation to accelerate the use of EVs and ZEVs in Connecticut, as provided in this bill. The transportation sector accounts for approximately 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions. In order to achieve our carbon goals, we need an aggressive, multi-pronged approach to address mobility options and reduce transportation emissions. A low carbon transportation system for Connecticut requires expanded commitment to public transit, smart growth, bicycle-pedestrian friendly communities, and zero emission vehicles. While the build-out of EV charging stations in Connecticut has been impressive and important, other foundational pieces are required to promote the broad adoption and use of EVs. Some of these critical elements are contained in HB 7009: time of day rates for EV charging stations, integration of EV projections into electric distribution planning, an analysis of the potential for EVs to provide battery storage to the grid, amendments to the building code to accommodate EV charging equipment in residential and commercial buildings and streamlining of municipal permitting, and incentives for EV drivers such as preferential parking and access to HOV lanes. Another important step to accelerate the use of EVs would be a tax credit or rebate to incentivize the purchase of EVs. The Institute assisted with the installation of a publicly-available EV charging station at Eastern Connecticut State University this past fall, through a grant from DEEP, and we look forward to additional opportunities to support increased use of ZEV/EV technology on our campus and throughout the state.
- **Support for HB 6989 AAC Distributed Energy Resources** – The Institute endorses this bill which will further promote and support clean, distributed energy in Connecticut through net metering of Class I renewable energy resources, additional incentives for combined heat and power, broadening of the micro grid program, and improvements in virtual net metering. These initiatives will facilitate the development of additional clean energy in Connecticut, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve resilience and the provision of renewable energy in emergency power situations.
- **Support for HB 6983 AAC Agricultural Customers and Virtual Net Metering** – The Institute supports the effort to broaden the use of virtual net metering for agricultural customers by allowing leases and long-term contracts for agricultural virtual net metering facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continued work to support Connecticut's energy efficiency and clean energy programs and goals.

Respectfully submitted,

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