Shaiken, Benjamin

From: James T Hall <jthall@wesleyan.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2015 5:39 PM
To: ETTestimony
Subject: SB 928 An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities

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Dear Committee Chairs Senator Doyle and Representative Reed and Members:

As members of Peoples Action for Clean Energy (PACE) we are writing to ask you to support expanding access to renewable energy, like solar PV, to all Connecticut families and businesses through creation of a shared renewable energy program. We urge your support of Raised Bill SB 928, to do just that. Shared renewable energy will empower renters and many others to choose solar and wind for the first time - and will save consumers money and unleash significant private investment into the state's growing clean energy economy.

Solar and other renewable energy options are already delivering tremendous benefits across Connecticut, but the traditional panels-on-your-roof model simply does not work for the majority of energy consumers due to trees shading their roofs. In order to deliver the economic development that clean energy offers to every corner of the state, we need to create a shared renewable energy program.

A well-designed shared renewables program can also help low- and moderate-income families, individuals and businesses access the benefits of clean energy. Renewable energy can help consumers to stabilize and reduce their energy bills, which is all the more important for low- and moderate-income communities where utility bills make up a much larger portion of their expenses. A shared renewable energy program is critical to delivering the promise of clean energy to everyone in Connecticut.

By expanding the market for renewable energy to the majority of energy consumers, Connecticut can also multiply economic benefits. The solar industry alone has added around 500 jobs in the past year and each new installation leads to investment in the local economy and long term energy savings to local consumers.

Please support swift passage of Raised Bill SB 928 to create a shared renewable energy program for Connecticut.

Thank you.

Signed,
James Hall