

Shaiken, Benjamin

From: Connecticut Sierra Club <connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org> on behalf of Thomas Jannke <sierra@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:53 AM
To: ETTestimony
Subject: Testimony on SB 928

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Mar 15, 2015

The Energy and Technology Committee

To Committee,

As a result of reviewing information I received from the Sierra Club, I am writing to urge you to pass a strong SB 928. I agree with their message.

Connecticut needs more in-state clean energy to meet our renewable energy goals, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to prevent air pollution, and to power our economy by creating new jobs.

We must move on to using plentiful, clean energy sources like solar and wind. SB 928, An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities, will establish a program to allow homeowners with shaded roofs, renters, condo dwellers, and business that lease space to participate as subscribers in a solar installation, or other shared clean energy facility, whether it's next door or across town.

More clean energy, produced in Connecticut, will add jobs to Connecticut's economy, reduce energy costs, clean up our air, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and have positive public health impacts in communities burdened with poor air quality.

I made the move to clean energy for my home. About 4 years ago, I, with the help of Connecticut's carbon credit (I believe) financial assistance program, installed a solar electric system on my house. We produce 99.6% +/- of the electricity that we use.

Also, with regards to clean air, I lived in Florida in the 1970's and I remember coming home to visit my family. When I got off the plane, the smog burned my throat and I remember remarking to family members that you couldn't see the sun clearly on a cloudless summer day. It was just a bright hazy ball in the sky. My family thought I was nuts. I have lived back in Connecticut since 1980 and I have noticed that the sun is now distinctly and clearly visible on a clear day, although it is now too bright to look at even momentarily. All this is just saying that environmentally beneficial programs do work, especially over the long haul. Some jobs may be lost, but the environmental programs create new ones. Keep working to improve our environment. The results may be slow to appear, but they are appearing. We are improving our air and water quality and our economy is improving.

We are a Prius hybrid car family.

Everyone should have access to locally produced clean energy. Please pass SB 928, and make sure the final language is strong and effective.

Sincerely,

Thomas Jannke
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