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From: Leo Smith <leo@smith.net>
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Subject: Testimony of Leo Smith in Support of the Shared Clean Energy Facilities

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March 17, 2015

In Support of Raised Bill SB 928

To: Committee Chairs Senator Doyle, Representative Reed and Committee Members:

I respectfully 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. I strongly encourage your support of **Raised Bill SB 928, An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities** to advance Connecticut's energy policy. Shared renewable energy will empower renters and many others to choose solar and other clean energy 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 substantial benefits across Connecticut, but the traditional panels-on-your-roof model simply does not work for the majority of residential energy consumers. due to trees shading their roofs. In order to deliver the economic development that clean energy has offers to every corner of the state, Connecticut needs 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 critically 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Leo Smith
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