



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Energy and Technology Committee
March 17, 2015

Testimony In Support of
HB 6838 AAC The Encouragement Of Local Economic Development And Access To Residential
Renewable Energy
SB 928 AAC Shared Clean Energy Facilities
HB 7009 AAC Electric and Zero-emission Vehicles
HB 6020 AAC Anaerobic Digestion
HB 6995 AAC A Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy Program
SB 1050 AAC Abandoned Electric Generating Facilities And Corporate Responsibility
In opposition to
HB 6940 An Act Establishing a Shared Clean Energy Facility Pilot Program

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer
Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of
Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Hamden Energy Use and Climate Change Commission, of which I am a member, has
voted unanimously to endorse both HB6838 and SB928.

HB6838 would establish a program for Solar Home Renewable Energy Credits, or
SHREC. The program should dramatically increase solar installs, create jobs, and accelerate our
movements toward our solar target goals of 300 MW by 2022. It will do this by creating Class I
RECs for residential solar, and using the income from sale of these RECs to fund Green Bank's
Residential Solar Investment Program, which has grown so rapidly it is outpacing its funding
sources. It contains a mechanism which limits any costs passed on to ratepayers. Importantly, it
provides an economic method for increased renewable generation in order to meet more of our
RPS targets from instate sources.

As we know, increasing distributed generation from renewable sources reduces overall
demand on the grid, reduces the need for new electrical generating plants, and strengthens our
electrical delivery structure overall.

SB928 would create a program for shared or community renewable energy. We find the
CASE report issued March 5 an excellent guide to constructing a program, and recommend it to
the Committee. It calls for creating a program immediately, with an interim funding structure.
When the value of solar study is completed, that can be used to optimize the financial terms.
There is simply no reason whatsoever to delay. We reject in its entirety **HB 6940**, which calls for
an extended pilot program. We find that an unnecessary and ill advised delay which serves no
purpose. Shared solar programs already operate in over 10 states. The sooner a program becomes
operational here, the sooner shaded homeowners, apartment and condo dwellers, and business in
rented spaces can participate in renewable energy. So participation will be finally available to the

80% of state residents who are precluded now.

HB 6020 calls for expanding the program for anaerobic digestion of food wastes, which produces energy and organic quality fertilizer. Since the proposed Chestnut Hill Waterbury plant several years ago, which failed for reasons other than the merits, we have always supported the concept of this excellent concept, and endorse this bill.

SB 1050 addresses abandoned electric generating stations. Although not named in the bill, we assume it refers to long closed English Station in New Haven. I have been involved with the plant for 15 years, communicating with a succession of owners looking for strategies for re-use of the site. Finding ways of remediating the property and putting it to beneficial re-use has been very challenging, as it was built specifically as a power plant, with internal structures difficult to adapt. The ground floor floods regularly, as the plant is sited on a 5 acre low elevation island in the Mill River. SB 1050 does not have specific language solving these problems, but does bring attention to the site, which is welcome. I am a co-founder of the Mill River Watershed Association.

HB 6995 calls for creation of a Residential PACE program. Sierra has always supported the concept, hosting a speech here several years ago by Cisco deVries, originator of the RPACE concept. We now have a very successful Commercial PACE program administered by Green Bank. We welcome a residential program, and hopes this proposal can address the long standing objection of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae) to making these PACE loans senior to the mortgage. So we endorse this bill.

HB 7009 would promote EV purchase and ownership. Sierra testified in strong support of HB 6030 on Feb. 6. This bill had similar content, but it was sent to Finance before a vote. HB 7009 contains parts of 6030, other than the purchase rebate. Promotion of EVs is a priority for the Sierra Club, so we endorse this bill.