

Dear Energy Committee,

We are extremely concerned about the growing impacts of climate change across Connecticut. We see shared solar as an important tool for cutting GHG emissions.

We think the present bill - HB 5427- needs to be fixed, specifically Subsection (d), which limits project financing to only 15 years...this must be changed to 25-30 years (the useful life of the equipment), or else these projects will be financially unviable.

Other concerns and suggestions are below, but in short we'd like to see shared solar grown as quickly as possible!

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Chris Schweitzer
New Haven Leon SCP

- Shared solar is essential for the four out of five Connecticut residents who can't access solar due to shady roofs, multi-family homes, or renting.
- The current pilot program is already delayed and inadequate - many other states, including Massachusetts and Maryland, are leaving Connecticut in the dust when it comes to shared solar and the jobs it creates.
- Solar is kick-starting the economy, with more solar jobs nationwide than in mining coal. Connecticut should take full advantage of, not hamper, the economic benefits of solar.
- A pilot program that is uneconomic for solar companies will limit implementation and create far fewer jobs than would be available with a workable project financing timeline.
- Public Act 15-113 should be implemented immediately and the state should establish a full-scale shared solar program, without limiting the number of projects or total megawatts, as soon as possible.
- Even better, Connecticut could drop the pilot program now and authorize unlimited shared solar. There was no need for a pilot in 2014, less need in 2015, and even less today. The pilot is starting to look like the poster child for utility victory in their decades-long opposition to wide-spread renewables. Our wallets, our economy, and our planet would benefit most from moving to a full shared solar program immediately, as so many other states have done.