



The Energy and Technology Committee

Public Hearing, March 1, 2016

Office of Consumer Counsel

Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel

Testimony of Elin Swanson Katz

**Raised Bill No. 5427,
*An Act Concerning the Shared Clean Energy Facility Pilot Program***

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has carefully reviewed Raised Bill No. 5427, *An Act Concerning the Shared Clean Energy Facility Pilot Program*, and supports the bill.

In the 2015 session, the Legislature enacted Public Act 15-113, creating a pilot program to support the development of shared clean energy facilities, sometimes known as community solar facilities. Under this program, customers who do not have the means or ability, for example, to install solar units on their own properties could subscribe to purchase electricity output or a percentage interest in a solar facility on another's premises. The pilot program has not made significant progress because Public Act 15-113 lacked a clear funding mechanism. The present bill would clarify that the pilot program would be funded through an electric distribution company tariff. Although this will have a small impact on electric bills, OCC supports the pilot so that we can examine how best to create opportunities for customers who would like to support solar development for environmental or financial reasons but who cannot install solar at their own homes or businesses.