

RCB 5427 AAC The Shared Clean Energy Facility Pilot Program.

Energy & Technology Committee, March 1, 2016

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Co-Chair Doyle, Co-Chair Reed, Committee Members and staff, my name is Gary Bent. My preference is that the pilot program should be scraped and a full shared clean energy program should be passed. Other states such as California, Colorado, and Massachusetts have already started shared solar programs. We know the model works. The Connecticut Academy for Science and Engineering submitted a report to the Committee last year that gave details for a Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF). This report was requested by your committee.

Connecticut is taking baby steps on installing renewable energy. Our state is 15th in the nation on the amount of installed shared solar per capita. Our neighbors are doing much better; New Jersey is 4th, Vermont is 9th, Delaware is 7th, and Massachusetts is 10th. It is time for Connecticut to commit itself to converting all electricity generation to renewable energy.

Passing the SCEF bill will allow many people, whose roofs are not in condition for solar or whose house is shaded, to participate in renewable energy by joining with their neighbors. It will also allow people who rent to share in renewable energy. In Massachusetts, which passed legislation allowing shared solar in 2008, the program is also helping to reduce energy costs for low-income tenants and is saving tax-payers \$60 million over 20 years.

In the present bill, the financing should be for the lifetime of the SCEF instead of 15 years. Fifteen years might discourage developers from participating in the program. Thank you for considering this information.