

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 3/1/16

Re: HB5427

My name is Judi Friedman. I am chairperson of PACE (PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR CLEAN ENERGY). Hundreds of PACE members strongly support the issue of community shared solar. Community shared solar is DEMOCRACY IN ACTION; solar energy for everyone who wants it. Four out of five people cannot access it, even if they want to!

We strongly feel that this pilot program is inadequate. Frankly we are embarrassed to be so far behind other states who have embraced this free fuel technology. Please authorize unlimited shared solar without limiting the number of projects or total number of megawatts. There must be no delay in implementation.

PACE members are interested in this safe, less vulnerable, fair, less discriminatory, more economic, inclusive, relevant and modern technology. I also speak for the many Connecticut solar installers with whom I have worked. They want to work in Connecticut, but they need assurance of financing for the life of the equipment (25 to 30 years). Financing for only 15 years will make it virtually impossible for developers to support HB 5427 in its present state. Delay of this bill and inadequate financing provisions force our supporters to adamantly oppose this bill.

Since 1973 PACE has showcased homes that display solar technology. Our members know that expanding the shared solar option means more jobs, a more robust economy, and money staying in Connecticut. Expanding solar is a positive public health issue. Let's be part of this century. Follow the examples of our neighboring states who are leaping forward with successful solar projects! I urge you to fully and speedily embrace the obvious logic of community shared solar.

Judi Friedman-Chair PACE 101 Lawton Rd., Canton, CT 06019
860-693-4813 www.pace-cleanenergy.org