

I am writing to urge you to oppose Subsection (d) of HB 5427 on shared solar energy, which limits project financing to only 15 years, which makes most of these projects financially unviable. The financing must be changed to 25-30 years (the useful life of the equipment). 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.

Maximizing renewable energy is not only smart business, it is essential to lessen climate change impacts. Unfortunately, about 80%, four out of five Connecticut residents can't put solar panels on their roofs because they rent or have shady roofs. Shared solar is essential. With shared solar, which allows anyone with an electric bill to buy a portion of solar power from a large solar array, everyone can access clean energy.

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 economic benefits it creates. Connecticut should drop the pilot program now and authorize unlimited shared solar. 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.

Sincerely,

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