

Dear Energy Committee members:

There is no disagreement that maximizing renewable energy is not only smart business, it is essential to lessen climate change impacts. Unfortunately, about 80% of CT residents can't put solar panels on their roofs because they rent or have shady roofs. **Shared solar**, which allows anyone with an electric bill to buy a portion of solar power from a large solar array, is the answer. With shared solar, everyone can access clean energy.

I am writing to oppose HB 5427, which was supposed to clarify the existing shared solar law, [Public Act 15-113](#) (which created the currently-delayed pilot program), but it instead creates new delays and obstacles. I offer the following points for your consideration:

- 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 far behind 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.
- Subsection (d), which limits project financing to only 15 years, must be changed to 25-30 years (the useful life of the equipment), or else these projects will be financially unviable.
- 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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.