

Comments on **AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY PILOT PROGRAM. Bill No. 5427**

Shared solar, when it is fully enabled in Connecticut, will provide many benefits to the people of the state. It will open the option of solar to the approximately 80% of households who don't own a roof or have a roof that is inappropriate for solar panels. It will create hundreds of jobs. Solar farms will provide property taxes to towns. We will reduce greenhouse emissions in Connecticut. Many other states have shared solar programs and they are working fine. Our own Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering recommended that we go forward with a full-blown solar program. We do not need a pilot program, we need to get on with it.

The only reason I can see for not going ahead is that it will, in a small way, hurt the interests of our two major energy distribution companies (EDCs). But it is not clear to me why their interests should come ahead of those of the people of Connecticut.

They argue that there is cost shifting, whereby the expense of maintaining the electric grid is shifted from solar users to other ratepayers. In fact, the opposite is true. Solar power provides benefits to the grid, improving service and reducing rates for all ratepayers. In their report, "[Shining Rewards](#), The Value of Rooftop Solar Power for Consumers and Society", The Frontier Group surveyed 11 studies that look at this very issue. Eight of the studies concluded, '...that that individuals and businesses that decide to "go solar" generally deliver **greater** benefits to the grid than they receive through net metering'. The three studies showing otherwise were authored by power companies.

Solar energy helps grid operators to avoid energy costs, avoid capital and capacity investment, reduce financial risks and electricity prices, increase grid resiliency, avoid environmental compliance costs, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce air pollution that harms public health. These benefits accrue to ALL ratepayers.

Moving ahead with shared solar will provide immediate, tangible benefits to the people of Connecticut. In the long run, it will also play a significant role in Connecticut's contribution to the world's attempt to slow climate change. I hope that you, the legislators considering this bill, will be able to look back in twenty or thirty years and be able to say that you did your part when you had the opportunity to help avert the catastrophe that certainly awaits us if we continue with half measures. Connecticut needs a full-fledged shared solar program now.

Thank you,

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