

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of your consideration of passing and implementing legislation to develop a comprehensive Shared Solar Program for the State of Connecticut. I strongly believe that our state government should adopt programs that reduce the reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation for economic and environmental reasons. A Shared Solar Program would be one step in the right direction to encourage that goal.

I live in Heritage Village in Southbury, the largest and oldest age restricted condominium complex in the State. As President of Condo Two, I am familiar with the impact of relying on fossil fuels for heating and lighting on the budgets of our residents. As most residents rely on electric heat, it is not unusual for individual monthly electric bills in the winter to average \$400 to \$600, a prohibitive amount for many retirees on a fixed income. Our Mater Condominium Association recently allowed a pilot program for the installation of solar panels. A Shared Solar Program would further encourage efforts to replace fossil fuel with renewable energy sources for electricity generation ultimately lowering the heating costs for all Connecticut residents.

Massachusetts and other states have fostered such programs with some success. Germany has led Western nations in converting to Solar Energy a significant source of fueling its national energy grid with dramatic economic and environmental benefits. Green technology has improved dramatically in the past several years and needs government support to continue to do so. May I strongly urge you to follow their paths by passing legislation such as a Shared Energy Program for the benefit of our State's citizens, our economic vitality and our environment.

Thank you,

Walter G. Johnson, Jr

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