

Dear Joint Committee on Energy and Technology,

I am writing to express my support for SB224.

Because I am not an attorney, and not versed in nuanced language I briefly state my understanding of the what the bill proposes and my logic for supporting it.

My reading of the SB224 is that it:

- Allows an EDC to build, own, and operate a renewable generation (solar, wind, tidal) facility.
- I understand that previous legislation separated distribution from generation and that to some extent this unwinds prior direction.
- I believe the bill DOES NOT PROHIBIT other entities (individuals, municipalities, and companies) from doing the same - i.e. the EDC is permitted to develop these facilities just like others.

If my understanding is correct this is why I think SB224 is useful:

- Operating solar farms is a technical business and not a skill set commonly found outside of the utility world. Therefore as we talk about Shared Community Solar or large arrays it is an impediment to developing these if the utilities can not operate them. I don't think they should have a monopoly - but I see no issue in letting them into the "game".
- The utilities have extensive right of ways under existing power lines and over pipelines. It seems that it is an ENORMOUS opportunity to have the utilities make double use of these by building solar on them:
  - It provides "free" extra power
  - It would actually make maintenance of the right of ways easier (brush etc would be shaded)
  - Siting of these "farms" is often an issue - but since this land is already used in a nonresidential fashion - that should not be an issue.

I do not understand the caps on generation in the bill - but I am hopeful that if development is successful these could be revisited if needed. I'd argue that either the capping language should come out - or be explained (i.e. - this is why these levels are in the bill).

In conclusion - if my reading is correct - please consider this as support for the bill.

I am a resident of Connecticut living at 21 Northcliff Drive, West Hartford CT 06117. My phone is 860 803 6272. You should feel free to respond or ask me for clarification if that is needed.

Sincerely,

Bernie Pelletier