



# Town of Rocky Hill

**ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
TESTIMONY CONCERNING RAISED SENATE BILL 394-  
AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING AND CERTAIN  
ZERO AND LOW EMISSION GENERATION PROJECTS**

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, Senator Formica and Representative Ackert. I am Claudia Baio, Mayor of the Town of Rocky Hill.

I am here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill 394, and act concerning virtual net metering and certain low emission generation projects.

Virtual net metering is crucial for towns like Rocky Hill to allow the opportunity for use of otherwise unusable land for cleaner, more cost effective energy for town buildings. For example, the project in Rocky Hill is located on a parcel of previously unusable land. Rocky Hill's solar project is an environmentally sound development on town owned property that overlays a Level A aquifer for our neighboring towns of Cromwell and Glastonbury. It will provide clean energy for a number of town buildings. Rocky Hill will be able allocate power generated from our solar project to 15 metered accounts, including all of our schools.

There are many positives including creating an opportunity to maximize our reliance on clean & alternative energy sources and at a significant cost savings. This is an Effective tool in helping Rocky Hill reduce our energy costs by as much as \$200-\$300,000/ year, which Cost savings would be spread across all rate payers.

Rocky Hill, like the other stranded towns, developed projects that planned to utilize the virtual net metering. We have committed many hours of municipal resources over the past 2 ½ years. As outlined in our economic development Director Ray Carpentino's testimony, Rocky Hill signed contracts, received ZREC award and made the project shovel ready. We proceeded with this project in good faith and spent considerable time, effort and money. At no time did we receive any notice during a process that the program had reached a cap.

We recognize that there may be a need for both short-term and long-term solutions which may differ to a certain degree. However, in the interests of equity, we, like the other stranded towns, should not be left with no remedy. We acted in good faith and at no time were advised that there was any issue. In fact, we were led to believe by the lack of notice to the contrary. We are very concerned about the potential of this inequitable outcome.

As such, on behalf of the town of Rocky Hill and the residents of the state of Connecticut I respectfully urge this Legislature to adopt a bill that will allow us to move forward with our projects in the interests of fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Baio