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ELLEN SCALETTAR
FIRST SELECTMAN

Testimony in Support of
SB 394
AAC Virtual Net Metering and Certain Zero or Low Emission Generation Projects

Submitted by
Ellen Scalettar, First Selectman
Town of Woodbridge

Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, Senator Formica and Representative Ackert:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB 394 that would increase the VNEM credit to allow a greater number of municipalities to develop distributed solar projects.

The Town of Woodbridge is committed to being a clean energy community and leading by example as a steward of the environment. As First Selectman, I appointed an Ad Hoc Energy Advisory Committee that initiated a Solar Challenge for residents and promoted home energy audits. As a result, there are now 58 more homes in Woodbridge that have residential solar and more than 120 homes are more energy efficient because they completed an energy audit.

We are also conscientious in following your lead, at the State level, with respect to clean energy opportunities. We have taken advantage of the State program to install electric car charging stations and we were awarded a DEEP grant to create a Microgrid that, during power outages, will provide us with reliable energy powered by a fuel cell.

Given all this, we were very excited to learn of the potential for a solar array on our capped landfill and pursued the project expeditiously. In March of 2015, the Town issued an RFP for the installation of a 1MW – 2MW solar array on our capped landfill. With the assistance of Paul Michaud of the law firm of Murtha Cullina, we awarded the project to Deutsche Eco. Deutsche Eco successfully applied for and received ZREC credits on behalf of the Town and is currently drafting an interconnection agreement to file with United Illuminating. Unfortunately, we have learned that our project is at a standstill because of the VNEM cap.

I applaud you for creating the VNEM program and respectfully ask that you make the necessary adjustments to allow it to reach its full potential. This will benefit not only the residents of Woodbridge, but all the residents of our State.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scalettar

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