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Before the
Energy & Technology Committee
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SB 394 – AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING AND CERTAIN ZERO OR LOW EMISSION GENERATION PROJECTS

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports SB 394** and the efforts to expand the Virtual Net Metering Credit Cap. This expansion would allow towns who currently have shovel-ready VNEM projects the ability to participate in the program. Given the ongoing budget challenges facing the state and municipalities, Connecticut must continue to help small towns utilize energy programs and new technologies to their fullest extent. By expanding the current 40% municipal credit cap, towns will have the opportunity to reduce costs and continue to deliver essential programs and services in a more efficient manner.

Alternate energy programs such as Virtual Net Metering are essential to municipalities in managing electric rates. Many municipalities started VNEM projects as a way to reduce overall costs for their residents. Unfortunately, prior to the start of their projects, towns were not provided with notification as to the extent of the remaining cap. This resulted in many towns expending money and effort in a program that they were unable to complete. COST urges the committee to help foster a transparent partnership that helps to ensure that Connecticut's towns have an opportunity to partake in programs such as VNEM in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 394** and the expansion of the VNEM Credit Cap.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.