ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2016

Testimony in support of SB 394 - "An Act Concerning Virtual Net Metering and Certain Zero or Low Emission Generation Projects".

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

Solar power is a critical element in the economic future of our state. If we are to rebuild manufacturing capacity and bring new jobs to Connecticut, we must create additional power generation capacity, and it must be affordable, sustainable and environmentally safe. Solar power offers just such an avenue into our state's future. The technology is here today and capable of immediately moving our state towards that goal.

Many municipalities, including the town of Bethel, have already taken the initiative. These towns have worked diligently and invested considerable time and resources to develop VNM projects. These projects would help reduce our electric bills, ease pressure on increasingly tight local budgets and benefit our environment. After going through this process, we were made aware that our projects could not move forward because the VNM cap had been met, leaving these projects essentially "stranded".

SB 394 would, among other things, require the Public Utilities and Regulatory Authority to authorize additional funding for municipal virtual net metering projects.

CCM ***supports*** the expansion of the cap on municipal Virtual Net Metering (VNM), as this would allow municipal projects to move forward. This proposal is a much needed measure towards creating cleaner and more affordable energy projects in our towns and cities.

SB 394 offers a reasonable solution to address the problems of these "stranded" towns. CCM looks forward to working with the committee to craft a more permanent solution in the future which would allow for additional opportunities for towns and cities to move ahead with VNM projects. CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report SB 394.**

- Matthew Knickerbocker, First Selectman of the Town of Bethel

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If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Beaudoin, Legislative Associate of CCM at abeaudoin@ccm-ct.org or (860) 670-4021.