



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony in support of
***SB 394 AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING AND CERTAIN ZERO OR LOW
EMISSION GENERATION PROJECTS.***
Energy and Technology Committee
March 10, 2016

Good day Chairman Doyle, Chairman Reed, Ranking Members Ackert and Formica, and distinguished members of the Committee. I want to thank you for raising **SB 394 AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING AND CERTAIN ZERO OR LOW EMISSION GENERATION PROJECTS**, and offer my full support.

Virtual Net Metering is a way for towns/cities, like Milford, to utilize otherwise unusable land (like closed landfills) to provide cleaner, cheaper green energy for town buildings. It also promotes Connecticut's development of renewable energy. Unfortunately, Milford is one of 11 towns (Branford, Beacon Falls, Bethel, Cheshire, Clinton, Milford, Newtown, Oxford, Putnam, Rocky Hill and Woodbridge) with shovel ready VNM projects which include Zero Renewable Energy Credits (ZREC's), contracts and permits that are unable to access this program. The Milford microgrid project is unique among the stranded towns in that it is the only one that has been awarded funding, \$2.9M, from DEEP through their Round 2 Microgrid Program. The ability for Milford to keep critical municipal facilities, Parsons Center, City Hall, Harborside Middle School, the Senior Center and River Park Senior Housing, up and running during a utility outage provides a tremendous service to the community.

There is a \$10 million Virtual Net Metering Cap that is spread throughout 3 user groups (state buildings, municipalities and agricultural facilities). Each user group is limited to a maximum of 40% of the total credits. VNM has proven to be so popular that 14 municipalities quickly consumed the municipal credits leaving 11+ towns which have spent considerable money and effort unable to move forward. The allocation of an additional 26 MW in virtual net metering credits, and earmarking these new credits specifically for "stranded" municipal projects, would let many projects like Milford's move forward.

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 394 and respectfully urge its passage.

Respectfully,

Representative Charles Ferraro
117th District