



**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Committee on Energy and Technology**

In support of
**S.B. No. 334, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS
TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY RELATED STATUTES**

Submitted by Shannon Laun
Energy & Environment Attorney
March 10, 2016

Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) is a non-profit environmental organization with over 5,500 members statewide. The mission of CFE, and its bi-state program Save the Sound, is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, and members of the Committee on Energy and Technology:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) submits this testimony in support of Proposed S.B. No. 334, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Energy and Technology Related Statutes. Our comments are restricted to Sections 2 and 3 of the bill, which would make technical revisions to Public Act 15-113, the shared solar law. We appreciate the Committee's interest in shared solar and efforts to establish a viable program in our state, and respectfully urge you to pass S.B. 334, which would facilitate implementation of the pilot program.

First, we emphasize that the pilot program should be implemented immediately, and further delays are unwarranted. In February, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) suggested that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) move forward and implement the program using Connecticut General Statutes §16a-3i(d) as guidance, as the Office of Consumer Council stated in their comments.¹ As an alternative, PURA recommended asking the legislature to revise Public Act 15-113 to clarify its intent. DEEP chose the latter approach.

If DEEP will not implement the pilot program without getting technical clarifications from the legislature, then S.B. 334 is the best way to get the program off the ground. Crucially,

¹

[http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/dockcurr.nsf/8e6fc37a54110e3e852576190052b64d/e8c1516e809d491285257f4e004cc03f/\\$FILE/Closing%20Letter.pdf](http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/dockcurr.nsf/8e6fc37a54110e3e852576190052b64d/e8c1516e809d491285257f4e004cc03f/$FILE/Closing%20Letter.pdf).

S.B. 334 does not include the fatally flawed 15-year financing provision of the other shared solar bill, H.B. 5427. Restricting project financing to only 15 years, as H.B. 5427 would do, would make it extremely difficult for solar developers to get project financing and would render the projects uneconomic for developers, investors, and end-use solar consumers. Solar developers have made it clear that 15 years is unacceptable: the financing period needs to be more like 25 or 30 years, roughly the life of the equipment. By comparison, Maryland's new shared solar regulations establish a financing period of 25 years.² In addition, H.B. 5427 would push back the dates of the shared solar pilot program, creating further delays. S.B. 334 would not.

Shared solar is a proven model that is already succeeding in other states. Further delaying Connecticut's pilot program, as H.B. 5427 would do, would cause our state to fall even further behind states like New York and Massachusetts, which are growing green jobs and attracting clean energy investors through their successful shared solar programs.

In conclusion, CFE supports Sections 2 and 3 of S.B. 334 because they would clarify the shared solar law and facilitate implementation of the pilot program. This bill is vastly preferable to the other shared solar bill, H.B. 5427, which would render the pilot completely infeasible by adding an unnecessary and harmful financing provision and would create even further delays.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shannon Laun _____
Shannon Laun
Energy & Environment Attorney
Connecticut Fund for the Environment
slaun@ctenvironment.org
(203) 787-0646 ext. 122

2

[http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/newIntranet/Casenum/NewIndex3_VOpenFile.cfm?filepath=C:\AdminDocket\RuleMaking\RM56\072\CommunitySolarregulationsChap01-Chap05\(02192016revisionscleanedup\)\(1\).pdf](http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/newIntranet/Casenum/NewIndex3_VOpenFile.cfm?filepath=C:\AdminDocket\RuleMaking\RM56\072\CommunitySolarregulationsChap01-Chap05(02192016revisionscleanedup)(1).pdf)