



March 17, 2017

Energy and Technology Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capital
Hartford, CT

RE: Committee Bill No. 106 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIVERSITY OF BASELOAD ENERGY SUPPLIES IN THE STATE AND ACHIEVING CONNECTICUT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MANDATED LEVELS

To the Leadership Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Solect Energy appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on Committee Bill No. 106. Solect is a full-service solar photovoltaic (PV) project developer and installer based in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, delivering smart solar and energy management solutions to help businesses and organizations reduce energy costs. Solect offers turnkey solutions to property owners including: feasibility assessments, financial and incentive modeling, financing options, regulatory expertise, design and engineering, installation, on-going system management, and state incentives and REC management. Our primary focus is on commercial, industrial, municipal, and institutional properties in New England.

Solect recently expanded operations into the Connecticut market, and plans to grow its business in CT which will include additional Connecticut-based direct employees in business development and operations, as well as numerous indirect employees from CT-based firms for design and installation support services. The success of our business and planned expansion into CT is directly tied to the continuation of the ZREC program. The ZREC program provides an essential revenue stream for the generation of 100% renewable energy, and enables a wide range of building owners to benefit from the installation of solar energy. Solect's customer base of over 450 project sites includes municipal buildings such as schools and town buildings, public and private universities, and commercial and industrial businesses. Our solar energy projects enable these organizations to stabilize and reduce their utility costs while producing their own renewable energy.

Our comments include support for the following improvements to the current bill:

1. A two-year extension of the ZREC program to a Year 7 (2018) and Year 8 (2019).
2. Reduce the bid price cap below the current price of \$261/MWh.
3. Mandatory semi-annual solicitations.
4. Restore ZREC funding in Year 7 and Year 8 to the original (Years 1-5) levels. Lawmakers last year extended the LREC program for one additional year and allowed LREC projects to split the Year 6 ZREC program funding of \$8 million. The Year 6 funding for ZRECs is now \$4 million, half as much ZREC funding as previous years. If CB106 passes as is, ZREC funding for Years 7 and 8 will be the same as

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Year 6 (a 50% reduction). We're calling for lawmakers to raise the total funding to \$12M for Year 7 and a Year 8. LRECs would receive \$4 million and ZRECs receive \$8 million which was the original program structure.

5. Direct PURA to manage a stakeholder process to create the best possible long-term successor program, including consideration of a feed-in tariff.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments, and are looking forward to a long and successful venture in helping businesses, municipalities, and the state of Connecticut meet their renewable energy goals.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Driscoll", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Ken Driscoll

Solect Energy