



**Testimony to the CGA Energy & Technology Committee**  
**By Louis W. Burch**  
**Citizens Campaign for the Environment**

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**Hartford, CT**

Chairman Winfield, Chairman Formica, Chairwoman Reed, Vice-Chairs, Ranking Member and honorable members of the Energy and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on important clean energy issues before the committee today.

My name is Louis Burch and I represent Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE). We are supported by over 80,000 members in Connecticut and New York State, and our mission is to empower communities and advocate for solutions that protect public health and the natural environment. I am here today to offer CCE's testimony on S.B. 9.

**Renewable Portfolio Standard**

CCE has been a strong supporter of increasing Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) targets, and have called for a strong 50% renewable procurement goal by the year 2030. This would bring Connecticut's RPS goals in line with those of our neighboring states of New York and Massachusetts, which have both adopted a goal of generating 50% of their power from Class 1 renewables by the year 2030.

The final Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) proposed increasing our state's RPS from 20% by 2020 to 40% by 2030—this is a good step in the right direction, as it would require a 2% increase in renewable investment each year. Significant investments in clean renewable energy are critical to put our state on a pathway towards meeting our Global Warming Solutions Act goals and modernizing Connecticut's energy system. CCE believes that a 2% annual ramp-up of renewables is an achievable target, given the state's existing power system capabilities. **CCE supports increasing Connecticut's RPS to at least 40% by 2030, and encourages the energy & technology committee to go beyond the recommendations laid out in the CES by removing barriers towards a more aggressive expansion of renewable resources in our state. Supporting small scale and grid scale renewable energy development, offshore wind, and virtual net metering would allow CT to meet our renewable potential and keep pace with neighboring states.**

**Virtual Net Metering**

Virtual Net Metering (VNM) is a beneficial approach to distributed generation, which incentivizes Class 1 renewable power development by allowing solar customers to distribute surplus power to other energy customers in their area. This is important because it allows homeowners and businesses to reduce the

amount of energy they need to purchase from conventional sources by installing clean solar power. VNM is a critical component that makes it possible to set up *community shared solar* programs, which allow community members to reap the benefits of locally generated renewable power, regardless of whether they themselves are able to install solar panels on their homes.

Section 4 of this bill would effectively do away with Virtual Net Metering in our state, by requiring solar customers to sell 100% of the power they generate on site back to the utility. This would negate any electricity offsets and other benefits related to small-scale solar power, and eliminate the incentive for homeowners and businesses to install solar facilities on their property. Additionally, by requiring consumers to sell 100% of the electricity they generate, S.B. 9 would essentially prohibit solar customers from installing batteries for the purposes of energy storage. This would keep energy costs high, limit customer choice and create a significant impediment to the development of a cleaner, more efficient energy grid in our state. **CCE is strongly opposed to eliminating Virtual Net Metering and respectfully urge the committee to reject this regressive proposal.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. CCE appreciates the Energy and Technology Committee's attention to this important issue, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with the Committee on expanding renewable energy in the future.