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MARCH 1, 2018

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
300 CAPITOL AVE  
HARTFORD, CT

RE: S.B. NO. 9 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE  
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

HERE IS MY TESTIMONY ABOUT PROPOSED S.B. NO. 9, AN ACT CONCERNING  
CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE.

WHILE I SUPPORT THE PROVISION IN THIS BILL THAT WOULD REQUIRE  
CONNECTICUT TO UPDATE AND EXTEND ITS RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO  
STANDARD (RPS), I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PROVISION TO ELIMINATE NET  
METERING FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR CUSTOMERS.

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD: I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO EXPAND  
THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) TO 40% OR MORE BY 2030.

1. CURRENTLY CONNECTICUT'S RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) DOES NOT SET ANY INCREASE IN STANDARDS BEYOND 2020; THE 2020 STANDARD IS NOTABLY LESS AGGRESSIVE THAN NEIGHBORING STATES: MASSACHUSETTS, MAINE, NEW YORK, RHODE ISLAND, AND VERMONT.2/28/18
2. TO MEET THE EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOAL RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) TO 40% BY 2030 IS THE MINIMUM REQUIRED.
3. CONNECTICUT HAS MADE STRONG COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE. TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS REQUIRES A TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY THAT RELIES PRIMARILY ON ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES.
4. COMPLIANCE WITH A HIGHER RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) WILL CONCURRENTLY REDUCE EMISSIONS OF HARMFUL POLLUTANTS SUCH AS NITROGEN OXIDES, SULFUR DIOXIDE, AND MERCURY. DOING SO PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS.
5. THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) IS PRACTICABLE FOR CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO

STANDARD (RPS) SUPPORTS INVESTMENTS IN RENEWABLES BY ENSURING BOTH A MARKET FOR THAT ENERGY AS WELL AS A HEALTHY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OVER DIRTY FOSSIL FUEL-BASED ENERGY. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THERE ARE NEARLY 37,000 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SOLAR JOBS IN CONNECTICUT. CONTINUED EXPANSION OF RENEWABLES IN CONNECTICUT SUPPORTS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

NET METERING: I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF NET METERING FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR CUSTOMERS; I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO REJECT THIS ASPECT OF SB 9.

1. IN RECENT YEARS CONNECTICUT'S DISTRIBUTED SOLAR MARKET THAT HAS GROWN TO SUPPORT 2170 PEOPLE IN LOCAL JOBS, AN 11% INCREASE OVER 2015 WHILE REDUCING UNNECESSARY UTILITY COSTS FOR HARD WORKING RESIDENTS. TO MEET CLIMATE CLEANUP COMMITMENTS GROWTH IS ESSENTIAL.
2. TO END THE RIGHT TO CONSUME ROOF TOP SOLAR PREVENTS THE HOMEOWNER FROM CONSUMING ELECTRICITY GENERATED ON THEIR OWN HOME.
3. TO END THE RIGHT TO STORE ENERGY PREVENTS THE HOMEOWNER FROM CHARGING THEIR OWN BATTERIES.
4. TO END THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLEAN GRID KEEPS ENERGY COSTS HIGH AND IMPAIRS PUBLIC HEALTH.
5. INCREASED METERING AND BILLING COSTS WOULD RESULTS FROM TWO UTILITY METERS: ONE TO MEASURE ELECTRICITY GENERATED AND ONE TO MEASURE ELECTRICITY CONSUMED.

THANK YOU FOR STRENGTHENING CONNECTICUT'S RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD TO MEET CONNECTICUT'S CLIMATE GOALS WITH LOCAL JOB CREATION AND IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH.

REGARDS,

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