

CONSERVATION

COALITION

To: The Energy and Technology Committee
From: Elizabeth Dempsey, Conservation Coalition of Connecticut
Re: Testimony for SB-9 - An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future
Date: February 28, 2018

On behalf of our Conservation Coalition members, we urge you to amend and strengthen SB-9. Conservation Coalition is a group of environmental advocates that serve a large network of activated voters across Connecticut. We educate and advocate reaching an audience of over 10,000 concerned Connecticut voters. Our voters are demanding sustainable environmental legislation that protects our constituent rights to a cleaner environment and prepares our state for climate change. We appreciate you taking up the issues affecting Connecticut's energy future and hope you will strengthen SB-9 as listed below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Net Metering – Please change SB-9's Net metering policy. As written, SB-9 kills roof-top solar installations. SB-9 should have rooftop solar customers pay their fair share of grid maintenance costs and reasonable compensation. However, SB-9 must protect our individual property rights to the use and storage of our own self-generated power. Please re-think granting utilities monopolistic control over all power generation in our state (and for that matter, control over gas, electric, and water in the case of one utility) when fair compensation for their grid infrastructure costs can be reasonably apportioned to customers so that non-solar customers aren't disadvantaged.

Green Bank/Clean Energy Funds—We support SB-9's attention to the crippling raids on Connecticut's award winning Green Bank. The raids of funds proposed in 2017, violate the public trust and good faith by misappropriating these funds away from their intended purpose. Lawmakers would be creating an unintended tax on our energy bills. The public is fed up with this repeated tactic. Creation of a self-sustaining Green Bank will multiply our state's efforts toward healthy, low cost, renewable and environmentally friendly energy. Additionally, we support SB-9's Green Bank programs which can lower energy bills for Connecticut's most financially challenged citizens through renewable installations.

Renewable Portfolio Standard – Please adjust your standards to a **minimum** of 40% and a target of 50% so that we can ensure meeting the emission reduction goal set by the Governors Council on Climate Change.

Energy Efficiency Savings Targets – SB-9 targets for energy efficiency need to be stronger. The annual savings target should be higher similar to neighboring states. Connecticut will thrive by making bigger commitments to energy efficiency yielding better public health, jobs for a green work force, and mitigating the effects of climate change.