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Before the
Energy & Technology Committee
March 1, 2018

S.B. 9: AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports** efforts to expand the Virtual Net Metering credit cap. Virtual Net Metering has been a successful program in assisting municipalities in reducing costs and improving energy efficiency. Given the importance of this program in improving energy efficiency and helping the state meet its renewable energy goals, expanding opportunities for VNM should be incorporated in the bill.

Incentive programs along with alternate energy programs, such as Virtual Net Metering, are essential to municipalities in managing electric rates. Many municipalities view VNM as a way to reduce overall costs for their residents. These opportunities will allow towns to reduce their energy costs while continuing to deliver essential programs and services. COST urges the committee to foster a transparent partnership that helps to ensure Connecticut's towns have an opportunity to partake in programs such as VNM in the future.

In addition, COST encourages the Committee to extend the ZREC and LREC programs for two years or until a successor program is put into place. The extension will provide the additional time needed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to complete a thorough review and develop a long-term successor program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the expansion of the VNM credit cap and the continuation of zero emission renewable energy credits and low emission renewable energy credits.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 35,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.