

Testimony Before the Committee on Energy & Technology

Concerning

S.B. No. 9 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE

Submitted by **Kenny Foscue**

March 1, 2018

Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am submitting this testimony concerning Proposed S.B. No. 9, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future.

I support the provision in this bill that would require Connecticut to update and extend its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), but I strongly oppose the provision that would eliminate net metering for residential solar customers.

I urge the committee to support an expansion of the RPS to at least 40% by 2030. Why?

- Connecticut's RPS currently does not set any increase in standards beyond 2020, and the 2020 standard is not as aggressive as that of neighboring states, including New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- The proposed expansion of the RPS to 40% by 2030 is the minimum required to meet the emissions reduction goal recommended by the Governor's Council on Climate Change.
- Connecticut has made strong commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change, and achieving those goals will require a transition to a clean energy economy that relies primarily on electricity generated from renewable sources.
- Compliance with a higher RPS will also reduce emissions of harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury, and provide substantial health benefits for Connecticut residents.
- The RPS is also good for Connecticut's economic growth. The RPS helps drive investments in renewables by guaranteeing that there is a market for that energy and by helping those renewables become more competitive with fossil fuel-based energy that currently has a market advantage.
- According to a January 2017 report by U.S. Department of Energy, there are nearly 37,000 energy efficiency and solar jobs in Connecticut. Continued expansion of renewables in Connecticut will mean more employment opportunities and economic growth.

I strongly oppose the proposed elimination of net metering for residential solar customers, and I urge the committee to reject this aspect of SB 9. I am a member and serve as chair for North Haven's Clean

Energy Task Force. We have actively promoted residential solar for over 10 years and are presently in the middle of our second Solarize campaign. Over 350 homes in North Haven have installed solar. We are contributing to job growth as well as addressing climate issues by promoting the growth of the solar industry. Ending net metering would take away an incentive by increasing the cost of solar and discourage the emerging market of solar batteries.

Any policy that discourages the growth of solar – and other clean energy markets – hurts the Connecticut economy. Expanding residential solar generation will be necessary to meet the needs of the growing electric vehicle market – estimates of up to 40% of electric cars on the road in the next few years will require greater energy capacity.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony concerning SB 9, which would strengthen Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard and thereby help to meet our state's climate goals while fostering local job creation and improvements in public health.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenny Foscue
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purposes only)
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