



Energy and Technology Committee

March 1, 2018

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 9 "An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future."

CCM appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Governor's proposal, **SB 9, "An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future."**

Renewable Portfolio Standards

CCM supports the State's continued commitment to increase the renewable portfolio standards on Connecticut's Electric Distribution Companies (EDC) to 40% by 2039. Incrementally increasing these requirements will increase the demand for these energy sources, providing increased opportunities for renewable energy projects.

Renewable Energy Credits (REC)

While CCM appreciates the bills one year extension for these REC programs, CCM would encourage the Committee to extend these programs until such time that a successor program is established by the relevant agencies, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the General Assembly.

These programs are instrumental in financing renewable energy projects that bring low-cost, green energy to local governments and assisting municipalities in reducing overall expenditures on energy. Providing continuity will instill confidence in the renewable energy market and encourage its continued growth.

Virtual Net Metering

While not included in SB 9, CCM supports efforts to expand the Virtual Net Metering (VNM) Credit Cap. Given the ongoing budget challenges facing the state and municipalities, Connecticut must continue to help municipalities utilize energy programs and new technologies to their

fullest potential. By expanding the municipal credit cap, towns –both small and large - will have the opportunity to reduce costs and continue to deliver essential programs and services in an efficient manner. Such expansion should include the requirement that electric distribution companies allow “unassigned” virtual net metering (VNM) credits to be applied to future bills on a month-to-month basis, known as “banking,” as expressed in CGS 16-244u(c). This expansion would allow for additional municipal projects to be realized, providing increased opportunity for the creation of cleaner and more affordable energy projects in our towns and cities.

Under the current VNM program, towns have saved dramatically on their energy costs by installing solar on their closed landfills and other underutilized land. Currently only 10% of the over 200 closed landfills in Connecticut are being used for virtual net metering. There is opportunity here to greatly increase usage of this land for the benefit of our towns and cities.

CCM supports the aforementioned renewable energy programs in the state as essential to municipalities in managing electric rates. We urge you to help foster a transparent partnership that helps ensure Connecticut’s municipalities have an opportunity to partake in programs such as these into the future.



If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager of CCM at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or (203) 843-0705.