

Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

- I am a member of a group of concerned citizens from Fairfield County. Our concerns relate to the State of Connecticut's positions on environmental issues. Our group is aligned with a politically active group in Fairfield County tackling upcoming political races and broad issues.
- We have met with DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee and his staff to better understand the issues facing the state. We are also speaking to other experts in environmental policy in the state.
- We have concerns about decisions made by the Trump administration to remove the US from the Paris Climate Agreement and support measures for Connecticut, like other states, to set standards and goals in line with the Paris Agreement.
- We have concerns about the sweeps of Green Bank funds that were done in the previous fiscal year to close budget gaps. We have concerns that in addition to having a negative impact on future sustainability projects, these sweeps will negatively impact jobs in the environmental area in our state.
- We support programs that encourage alternative energy sources for residences and businesses in the state, specifically solar and wind. We do not support measures that would deter either adoption of solar technology (such as eliminating net metering) or the loss of jobs in the solar field.
- We understand that the proposed bill in front of your committee is in its nascent stage. We want you to know that we will follow the progress of this bill and its impact on environmental issues in the state.
- At this point, we are supportive of (a) the extension of the Renewable Portfolio Standard to 40% or more by 2030, and (b) a funding increase for the Green Bank until 2025, allowing the Green Bank to become self-sustaining by that date. We do not support (a) the provision that would eliminate the net metering for residential solar customers because we believe this would have a negative impact on adoption and jobs.

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