



BICEP Network Members:

March 7, 2017

Adobe
Annie's Inc.
Aspen Skiing Company
Autodesk, Inc.
Aveda
Ben & Jerry's
Burton Snowboards
CA Technologies
Clif Bar & Company
Dignity Health
eBay Inc.
Eileen Fisher
Etsy, Inc.
Fetzer Vineyards
Gap Inc.
General Mills, Inc.
IKEA
JLL
KB Home
Kellogg Company
Levi Strauss & Co.
Lbrands
L'Oreal USA
Mars Incorporated
Nature's Path Foods
Nestlé
New Belgium Brewing
Nike
The North Face
Outdoor Industry Association
Owens Corning
Patagonia
Portland Trail Blazers
Salesforce
Seventh Generation
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
Squaw Valley
Starbucks
Stonyfield Farm
Symantec Corporation
Timberland
Unilever
VF Corporation
Vail Resorts
Vulcan, Inc.
Worthen Industries

Connecticut General Assembly
Connecticut State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

As the representative of a network of major employers and large electricity customers across the United States, I am writing to you on behalf of the Ceres BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy) Network. The Network is made up of many companies with operations and employees in Connecticut. On behalf of this group, I write to you to express our support for proposals to increase Connecticut's renewable portfolio standard (RPS), as well as our opposition to other provisions in SB 9, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future*. The Ceres BICEP Network opposes the bill in its current form.

Connecticut's business community relies on renewable energy and energy efficiency programs to cut costs, avoid energy price volatility, and stay competitive in a regional marketplace where neighboring states are increasingly investing in clean energy. They recognize the importance of smart clean energy programs for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the local economy.

We commend the inclusion of an RPS increase in SB 9. Extending the RPS and increasing it by 2 percent a year would help Connecticut continue to create jobs, lower wholesale electricity rates, and meet state emissions targets. A recent study by Synapse and Sustainable Energy Advantage found that increasing the RPS to reach 50% renewable energy by 2030 would help the region create tens of thousands of jobs, would add 2,000 to 4,900 MW of clean energy to the grid, and would help reduce our exposure to volatile natural gas prices.¹ We recommend the state consider proposals to increase the RPS by *more than* 2 percent a year, so that Connecticut can reach a target of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.

The net metering and energy efficiency provisions in SB 9 would take Connecticut a step backwards. Net metering is a crucial policy which ensures ratepayers who provide clean, reliable electricity to the grid from renewable energy projects are compensated for their contributions to the system. SB 9 would require solar generators to sell all the power they generate back to the utilities, preventing them from consuming the energy they produce on their own property. The bill would also prevent consumer generators from storing energy on-site, which would discourage companies from making future investments in energy storage technologies. Distributed solar energy is a net benefit to the electric grid and those benefits are shared by all ratepayers. It is a key piece of the modern, efficient grid, and we encourage you to oppose proposals to weaken or dismantle it.

We also have strong concerns with the energy efficiency provisions in SB 9. Energy efficiency is the most cost-effective mechanism for Connecticut to reduce emissions and save ratepayers money. According to the recent Annual Legislative Report of the Energy Efficiency Board, every dollar spent on energy efficiency in Connecticut generates \$7 in

**Companies listed in bold
have operations in CT**



Ceres

Sustainability is the bottom line.

economic activity.² Unfortunately, the legislature has raided the Conservation and Load Management (C&LM) program funds twice to pay for budget shortfalls. While we commend efforts in SB 9 to shield energy efficiency funds from future budget raids, this bill would not restore already-raided funds, which will lead to higher utility bills.³ Overall, SB 9 would not provide a net increase in energy efficiency funding and would make energy efficiency more expensive in Connecticut.

Connecticut has the potential to be a national leader in the clean energy economy, but state leadership is needed. We encourage you to take a stand to demonstrate Connecticut's commitment to ushering in the low-carbon economy by ensuring that SB 9 is amended to reflect these concerns.

Thank you for considering these important issues. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Anne Kelly
Senior Policy Program Director, Ceres
On behalf of Ceres BICEP Network

The Ceres BICEP Network comprises influential companies advocating for stronger climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal level in the U.S. For more information on the Ceres BICEP Network, visit: <https://www.ceres.org/networks/ceres-policy-network>

For additional information, please contact Matthew Willner, Senior Associate, State Policy at: willner@ceres.org

¹ http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/Increasing-the-Connecticut-Renewable-Portfolio-Standard-17-070_0.pdf

² <https://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/Final-2017-Annual-Legislative-Report-WEB-2-20-18.pdf>

³ Ibid