

Ms. Tracey Kiff-Judson, Chair
Board of Education



47 Main Street
Ellington, CT 06029

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A Message to Connecticut Legislators from the Ellington Board of Education

The Ellington Board of Education recognizes the immense challenge legislators face in representing a diverse set of stakeholders with varied interests. Therefore, we endeavor to be part of the solution and demonstrate that ten Board members of different political parties are able to work together to develop a legislative platform for your consideration.

In that spirit, the Ellington Board of Education has unanimously approved this letter outlining one legislative priority.

What is unique about this year's Ellington Board of Education legislative platform?

1) *Not Education Specific:*

Legislation will improve a municipality's ability to generate energy cost savings that indirectly supports a school district's financial needs.

2) *Not Demographic Specific:*

Legislation will benefit suburban, rural, and urban communities.

3) *Requires No State Funding:*

Legislation will not cost the State of Connecticut any money.

Virtual Net Metering

Connecticut adopted a limited Virtual Net Metering (VNM) program allowing State, Municipal and Agricultural customers to aggregate savings from the installation of Class I (such as solar or wind) and Class III (co-generation) distributed generation. VNM allows customers who operate behind-the-meter generation (called the Customer Host) to assign surplus production from their generator to other metered building accounts (Beneficial Accounts) that are not physically connected to the Customer Host's generator.

With respect to municipalities, this allows the town and school district to reduce its carbon footprint while at the same time creating long-term budget savings by offsetting electricity costs. It also allows for

investment in larger clean energy projects by facilitating, for instance, the construction of a ground solar array rather than simply being limited to rooftop arrays (which could reduce the potential amount of electricity able to be generated and also impede future roof replacement projects).

The VNM program is subject to a cap, and there is a current backlog of unmet demand for VNM credits among municipalities who would like to participate in the program. Recognizing the benefit of the program and the great interest among municipalities in participating, the General Assembly extended the program cap in 2016 but VNM credits in the Agriculture and Municipal programs have been filled once more. Without the VNM component available to them, the potential impact of municipal renewable energy projects is greatly diminished, and some projects may not be developed at all.

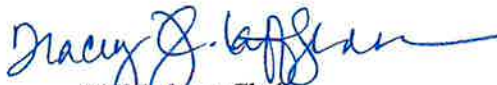
Recommendation:

That the current cap on Municipal Credits for the Virtual Net Metering program be lifted, and that the program can be opened to all municipalities that are willing to make the investment in clean, renewable energy in order to better manage their annual energy costs.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us should we be able to offer assistance with your work in this very important upcoming legislation session.

Sincerely,

The Ellington Board of Education



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