

## Testimony Before the Committee on Energy & Technology

### *Concerning*

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

Submitted by *David Mann*

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.

#### Renewable Portfolio Standard

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

- 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.
- 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.

#### Net Metering

**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. As a member of my local energy conservation committee, I became a solar adopter, attracted by efforts of Energize CT and Solarize CT. Aside from the environmental benefits; I invested based on the prevailing net metering and civic responsibility. If net metering is repealed, it will basically mean the state is thumbing its nose at those who followed their policy initiatives. Aside from affecting my electric costs, it could and will seriously undermine the future of other similar state initiatives!

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,  
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