February 27, 2018

To: The Committee on Energy and Technology

From: Susan Miller

Re: Testimony on SB 9, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future

Distinguished Committee Chairs and Members:

I am a strong advocate of clean, renewable energy. I know that moving immediately to 100% renewable energy is imperative for the future of humans on planet earth. As such, SB 9 is a step in the right direction. However, it does not go far enough. Scientists have repeated reported that our window for getting emissions under control is rapidly shrinking before catastrophic consequences are inevitable. We have already seen the massive destruction and disruption climate events can make over 2017, not to mention how incredibly costly they are. So we cannot say we don't know what's coming – it's already here. In Connecticut we have experienced our own version of these events, from Sandy to droughts. Incremental shifts are no longer an option. That is why I strongly encourage you to increase the percentage of electricity that is coming from renewable sources to 100% within the next 10 years. This is possible – if the state is willing to put a focus on it. Clean energy produces jobs – lots of them. It would draw people into the state to meet the demand. Clean energy improves the air and water quality – reducing the health burden borne by the least fortunate among us, often people of color. Health costs would drop, freeing up funding for other priorities. Frankly, it's just the right thing to do.

In the same vein, capping solar and eliminating net metering is the wrong thing to do. We need to be pushing for innovative options for electricity, not discouraging people from investing in this technology. We need more micro-grids to provide energy to low-income families and those that do not have options for their own solar array. Micro-grids are also a safer option in the inevitable event of a major storm or other catastrophic event (consider cyberwarfare). They would be easier to get back online (Houston's solar was up quickly after Harvey), and could help ensure that critical services are maintained. These should be publicly owned.

The fees for noncompliance that are recommended in SB 9 strike me as moving in the wrong direction. Surely we want to increase the burden for companies that avoid using renewable,

rather than less? The changes seem to be making it more likely that companies will continue status quo.

One additional note: methane (aka natural gas), is 100 times worse than carbon dioxide on the warming of the atmosphere. As such, no technology should be considered a class I renewable that includes methane sources – this is simply counteracting the point of using renewables. Landfill methane currently falls under this heading.

I hope that the committee will push harder to make Connecticut a leader in renewable energy use, for our health, our financial well-being, and for the future.

Thank you.

Susan Miller

10 Ethan Drive

Windsor, CT 06095