

Testimony before the Committee on Energy & Technology

Concerning

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

Submitted by Susan Andrus Olson

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.

In 2009 my family invested in an array of 30 roof top solar panels – a purchase that made both economic and environmental sense to us. Since that time, we have added 6 ductless mini-splits to increase our comfort winter and summer. We also purchased a plug in hybrid from a CT car dealer. Though both the solar panels and the mini-splits came from out of the country, the installation of each was done by local CT companies. We could not think of an investment of that size that would pay back better dividends.

Not every family is sited for solar installations. My solar panels are in full production when the summer sun is driving many to use their air conditioners peaking demand. In winter, especially when snow is covering the ground, we buy more energy than we make. It seems we are collaborating back up peak power for the grid.

Large centralized power grids are vulnerable both to storm outages and to acts of terrorism. They lack the efficiency of locally produced and consumed energy. Pursuing the state's renewable goals needs players on all levels. Eversource does well to engage commercial sized renewable power while not abandoning residential net metering and CT's local residential solar installers.

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.

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