

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

Submitted by *Deepika Saksena*
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 fully support the extension of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 40% or more by 2030. However, I strongly oppose the provision that would eliminate net metering for residential solar customers. I feel that these two provisions are at odds with each other because net metering is critical to the success and future of solar energy in Connecticut, which is in itself critical to achieving a higher RPS in the coming years.

Furthermore, I have serious concerns about the CT Green Bank sweeps that were done in the previous fiscal year to close budget gaps. Stealing rate payer funds seems unconscionable to me, because while this amount is but a drop in the bucket compared to the budget deficit, the monies taken would have had a major positive impact on future green energy projects as well as green jobs in the coming years. To remedy this, please support the SB 9 provision that will provide a funding increase to the Green Bank until 2025, thereby allowing CT Green Bank to establish a sufficient portfolio to become a self-sustaining enterprise by 2025.

With the administration in Washington walking away from the Paris agreement, and the ever increasing destructive effects of Climate Change, it is up to us in the states to do everything we can to slow down Climate Change. We must set our goals to eliminate our reliance on and the use of fossil fuels, in favor of renewable clean energy. For this we need incentives to grow solar power and seed money to set the Green Bank on the path to fulfilling it's mission to build energy strategy to achieve cleaner, less expensive, and more reliable sources of energy while creating jobs and supporting local economic development.

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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