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Essex, CT 06426

February 28, 2018

Written Testimony on S.B. No. 9 – An Act Concerning CT’s Energy Future

Dear Energy and Technology Committee,

Independence Solar is a developer and installer of commercial solar systems headquartered in Essex. We have created hundreds of jobs within CT through our direct employees and the construction, engineering, and maintenance of the system we build. Our customers are CT businesses that are looking for ways to manage their energy costs over the next 5, 10, 20 years as energy is one of the top operating expenses they face, after only labor and healthcare costs. Installing an onsite renewable generator (and battery storage in the future) allows them to reduce their energy costs, invest in their CT operations, grow their labor force, and stay competitive both regionally and nationally.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B 9 Sections 5 (a) & (c) related to the development of a successor distributed generation program:

What We Like:

- 20-year tariff term, 12 years of solicitations (provides market stability, which will drive down costs).
- Competitive.
- Preference for storage and TOU rates (the future of enabling a low cost, distributed grid).
- 40% RPS by 2030.

What Should Be Improved:

- BuyAll/Sell All doesn't work (Customer's can't use on-site generation to reduce their energy costs with load management and storage).
- Too small (40% reduction from ZREC program)
- Misses an opportunity to meet new RPS goals with more low cost, in-state resources (Drive climate and economic development goals together).

Suggestions For Improvement:

- Extend LREC/ZREC until start of new program for smooth transition (MA example).
- Increase annual solicitations to \$100M (from \$35M currently in S.B. 9).
- Allow customer’s to use energy onsite and sell back exported power at a fixed, competitively bid rate.

If these changes are implemented to Sections 5(a) & (c) of S.B. 9 we believe that CT can create a leading national C&I solar program that will enable CT business to save money on their long-term energy costs by harnessing innovations in self-generation and storage to grow their businesses, create jobs, and drive CT’s economic recovery, all at a very low cost to CT ratepayers.

Independence Solar would like to thank the Energy and Technology Committee for its consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

James Schwartz
Co-Owner
Independence Solar, LLC