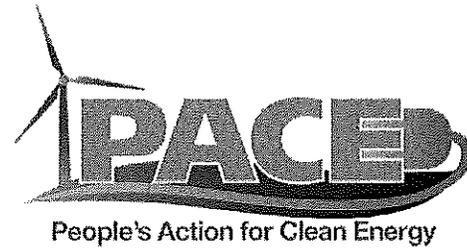


S.B.-9 Testimony of Mark Scully
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Honorable Chair Rep. Reed, Co-Chairs Sen. Winfield and Sen. Formica, Vice Chairs Sen. Doyle, Sen. Hwang, and Rep. Slap, Ranking Member Rep. Ackert, and Committee Members.

I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work that went into this comprehensive bill, which seeks to create a sustainable plan to achieve the climate goals we all share. We are keenly aware that the Energy and Technology Committee has received voluminous testimony, both written and spoken, on this bill. Therefore, I will restrict my testimony to one aspect of Senate Bill 9: net metering.

As a Connecticut resident with solar panels in my yard and on my rooftop, I am sympathetic to the concern that net metering, as currently constituted, is ultimately unsustainable. As the penetration of distributed solar increases, utilities will confront increasing grid servicing burdens and reduced revenues. As you pointed out in your testimony on March 1, Connecticut is not the only state grappling with these issues. At some point, net metering must be reformed.

However, I am deeply concerned that Senate Bill 9 would not reform net metering, but would end it entirely. If passed into law, this draconian bill would remove fundamental rights residential solar customers currently have, notably the right to store and use electricity we generate on-site. It would throttle the incentive and capability of residents to manage their own energy demand and timing. Moreover, this bill would lead to upheaval in the energy marketplace and substantial job losses in the state.

I implore you not to remove net metering, but to reform it. People's Action for Clean Energy is proud to be a signatory in December 2017, along with Acadia Center and various other parties, to "Joint Principles on Net Metering Reform in Connecticut."¹ This document clearly shows that reforms are available that address cost-shifting concerns while maintaining customer rights and benefits.

It has been widely acknowledged that net metering today constitutes a negligible share of power generation in Connecticut. Therefore, I urge you not to take the radical step of killing net metering in this short legislative session. We at PACE would be pleased to work further with the legislature and DEEP to draft the reforms to net metering that will ensure our clean energy future.

Submitted March 2, 2018

¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4376598-Joint-Principles-on-Net-Metering-Reform-in-CT.html>