



February 28, 2018

Re: **S.B No. 9 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUTS ENERGY FUTURE**

Good afternoon.

My name is John Smith, I am an employee of **Earthlight Technologies** out of Ellington CT. We specialize in Residential and Commercial Solar and Energy Efficiency. Earthlight is an 8 year old company that began as a Light Bulb shop, that has now grown to 60+ employees.

Back in the late 1980's the CT Legislature created a bill that assured that CT would become obligated to becoming more energy efficient, and less reliant on fossil fuels. This bill would also help CT clean the air for future generations and reduce the need to create large energy infrastructure to handle growth. I'm not certain that back then, the bill writers imagined the success they would have in achieving those goals nor would they have expected the scale of industry that would develop out of such a forward-thinking bill. 100's of businesses, 10's of thousands of jobs, awards for being a leader nationwide, and year after year an ever growing revenue stream for our state.

I believe that back when this bill was created the legislators also wouldn't have imagined for a minute that future legislators would work so hard to dissect such a fully functioning self-managed, revenue generating industry, that survives and thrives despite so much adversity in our State, Country and around the world.

As of this day, the hardest thing for me to understand is how our State Leaders justify coming after funds, outside of the realm of already exorbitant taxing, and sweep the dollars that when invested in Energy Efficiency and Renewables as intended, generate massive revenue for our State.

Despite the logic, current Legislators have already acted on a bill that swept half of the ratepayer funds from the Utility managed programs. Now, with **S.B. 9** amendments they are hoping to take complete control of how the EE & Renewable programs are managed, taxed and procured, putting DEEP into the driver's seat, and adding yards of red tape to what is now a very fluid, well-oiled machine.

Just by putting DEEP in charge you will immediately lose private industry CT employees, and add to the already enormous State of CT employee roster. You will also without question, add to the cost of Energy Efficiency with the "layers" being implemented. Procuring all aspects of the EE programs will create massive inconsistencies, and log jams quite similar to DEEPS "Lead by Example" program that is certainly not a good example of how to lead and get things done.

Folks, we need to better understand why we are attempting to fix something that isn't broken. At a time when there are so many issues in our State needing our attention, we chose to dismember a major success story. It all comes back to a statement made by the Top Senate Republican last year when

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cornered in his office. We asked him what he knew about the EE funds and how sweeping them will affect our State. He simply stated that he had no idea what they are used for. He, like so many was willing to sweep a fund, and in fact did sweep that fund that should have been outside of his purview. He helped do this without understanding the massive impact. Not only on the States revenue, but on the 30,000 or more residents and business owners that have dedicated their lives to this Industry. That is how our State has gotten to today. We fail to look at the long term affects, when all you must do in the EE and Renewable Industry is open your eyes and look around the room.

S.B. 9 is 10 steps backwards. I urge you not to support it. Please use the time and make this decision wisely. The States future and this Industries future rides on this decision.

Thank you.



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