

Testimony of Tom Swan, Executive Director of the CT. Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

ON SB 9 AAC Connecticut's Energy Future

March 1, 2018

Good afternoon Sen. Winfield, Sen. Formica, Representative Reed and other members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG) and I want to thank you for holding today's hearing SB 9 AAC Connecticut's Energy Future.

While there are aspects of the proposed bill that could move the state forward, we find many pieces to be disappointing and even some of the more adequate parts to be disappointing. In the time of Trump and the dangers from climate disruption being more imminent it is imperative that states like Connecticut act boldly and chart an alternative course. Unfortunately, DEEP's proposal fails to meet the challenges.

The proposed increase in the Renewable Portfolio Strategy to 40% Class 1 renewables by 2030 is a good acknowledgement that we need to increase our commitment, but we believe this commitment needs to be even greater with a 100% by 2050.

We oppose the proposed reduction of the RPS Alternative Compliance Payment and call for the proceeds from these programs to go to energy efficiency programs targeting lower income residents of Connecticut.

We also strongly oppose the attacks on residential solar programs and net metering in sections 4 and 5. These proposals mirror attacks on clean energy programs that are being advanced in other states by Koch Brother affiliated groups and utilities. Instead of destroying Connecticut's growing (But lagging behind many of our neighbors) solar industry, we should look at what our neighboring states have done as outlined by the Acadia Center in their testimony.

In closing, we believe there are other components that should be included in any comprehensive energy strategy to build a stronger economy, some of which you will be considering in other legislation. These include: 1) Incentivize the development of off shore wind; 2) Make our state office buildings, public housing and municipalities more efficient and reliant of renewables to save taxpayers money, 3) Implement a robust shared solar program that will bring the benefits of renewable energy to renters, low-income residents and small businesses 4) Invest in making Connecticut a leader in battery storage technologies and 5) Repeal short sighted proposals that will lead to higher costs and perpetuate old technologies like the pipeline tax on residential electricity users.

Thank you for your time.