

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

The time is now to make the move to renewable energy. Can CT please be the leader in SOMETHING? Since we don't produce oil or gas in our state, renewables are the best type of energy to be 'home grown' in CT. We suffer some of the worst air quality in the US due to it mostly streaming over our borders from neighboring states. How can we complain when we use that energy? Producing our own clean energy, even at a high cost gives us the moral upper hand to shut down neighboring polluters. This effort should go hand in hand with a conservation program to use less energy overall. An energy assistance program needs to be increased to counter the increase in energy prices until the costs can come down due to volume. The following is a step in the right direction.

Connecticut is lagging behind its neighbors on climate leadership. But you have an opportunity to right that wrong this session with progressive climate goals, structural reform, and enhanced policy tools that will put the state on a positive path through 2030 and beyond.

Renewable Portfolio Standard (Sec. 1—SUPPORT BUT MAKE STRONGER): We need an even stronger RPS than is proposed to ensure Connecticut meets the Global Warming Solutions Act's greenhouse gas reduction requirements. Fifty percent renewables by 2030 will put us on that economy-boosting renewable infrastructure trajectory. We need to make this move this year so Connecticut is ready to transition away from fossil fuels and nuclear power when the time is right.

Net Metering (Sec. 4 and 5—OPPOSE): The proposal to eliminate net metering would cripple a renewable energy future for Connecticut and our solar industry. Solar users have property rights that should allow them to keep the unused solar power they make during the day, store it in a battery, and use it whenever they please. Any changes to Connecticut's net metering program should mirror neighboring states' laws that protect the right to consume and store self-generated clean energy.

Energy Efficiency Savings Targets (Sec. 7—SUPPORT BUT MAKE STRONGER): Strong mandates for energy efficiency are some of the most effective investments in cutting climate change, protecting public health, and building a green workforce. Now more than ever, after devastating raids of the energy efficiency funds, the state must be more aggressive—like Massachusetts is—and double the current annual savings target proposed in SB 9.

Clean Energy Fund/Green Bank (Sec. 9—SUPPORT): The raids against clean energy funds last session hurt renewable growth in Connecticut, and must not be repeated. But SB 9 attempts to triage that injury through a minimal, time-limited increase in Green Bank funding (through 2025). It will allow the CT Green Bank to become self-sustaining without future ratepayer support.

I urge you to do the right thing for not only my family, but for all residents of Connecticut, today and into our healthy and renewable energy future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Liz Van Duyne

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