

Testimony for the Energy and Technology Committee on SB 9; Thursday, March 1, 2018.

Dear Senator Formica, Senator Winfield, Representative Reed and members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am writing in support of that portion of SB 9 that would update the Renewable Portfolio Standards by setting a new interim target of achieving at least 40 % of the state's energy supply from Class 1 renewable energy resources by 2030. In order to achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets, reduce air pollution from nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury DEEP's analysis shows we need to set this interim target.

This expanded goal will also provide much-needed jobs. The US Dept. of Energy reported in 2017 that almost 39,000 people had jobs in energy efficiency and renewable energy in Connecticut, and the solar industry has been adding jobs 12 times the rate of the rest of the economy. Connecticut could be a leader in solar energy if we act to encourage the industry here and, in doing so, help to reinvigorate our economy.

One of the real drawbacks to living in the northeast is the cost of winter heating. We need to increase the availability of renewable energy to all populations in the state. That is why I oppose the provision in this bill that would strip net metering away. Homeowners and businesses need the savings that come from reducing their draw on the utility grid to make it worth their while to invest in the up front costs of renewables. This provision flies in the face of the increased goals in the bill.

Thank you for your attention,

Susannah Wood  
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