



**Legislative Testimony of the Connecticut Green Bank**  
Energy and Technology Committee  
February 21, 2019

**Regarding House Bill 6237**  
**AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF ENERGY STORAGE PROJECTS AND DISTRIBUTED GENERATION IN THE STATE**

*As the nation's first green bank, the Connecticut Green Bank ("Green Bank") leverages the limited public resources it receives to attract multiples of private investment to scale up clean energy deployment. Since its inception, the Green Bank has mobilized \$1.5 billion of investment into Connecticut's clean energy economy at a 6 to 1 leverage ratio of private to public funds, supported the creation of over 16,500 direct, indirect and induced jobs, reduced the energy burden on over 35,000 families and businesses, deployed nearly 330 MW of clean energy, helped reduce over 5.3 million tons of CO2 emissions over the life of the projects, and generated over \$75 million in individual income, corporate, and sales tax revenues to the State of Connecticut through 2018.*

The Green Bank supports House Bill 6237.

House Bill 6237 would require a study of energy storage projects and distributed generation in Connecticut; this study would include recommendations regarding pilot programs, other incentive programs, and whether changes should be made to state energy procurements to promote energy storage projects in the state. The Green Bank would invite the study to include any Green Bank supported energy storage and distributed generation programs and projects in Connecticut, as well as how such technologies are reaching underrepresented communities (e.g., low-to-moderate income households, seniors, people living with disabilities, communities of color, and small businesses).

The Green Bank has long been supportive of electric grid modernization efforts to promote integration of greater amounts of customer-sited distributed energy resources (DERs). These efforts include the deployment by CT's utilities of bidirectional communications, control and data-sensing technologies, and consideration of DER alternatives to traditional capacity solutions.

The Green Bank's direct efforts include administration of the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP)<sup>1</sup> which will result in deployment of 300 MW of residential solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, of which 250 MW or almost 32,000 projects have been completed or are in process. The Green Bank, working with CPower Energy Management, will be among the first participants to aggregate residential solar PV in ISO-NE's forward capacity markets. This will

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<sup>1</sup> CGS 16-245ff

provide the regional grid operator with a wealth of data on residential solar PV electricity generation and will lead to greater recognition of the benefit that DERs bring to the regional grid through demand reduction, as well as benefits to all ratepayers in the region, but specifically those in Connecticut.

Energy storage is a fast-developing, flexible resource that holds long-term potential to fundamentally reshape entire markets. Storage may also facilitate ever-greater amounts of intermittent generation resources being accepted into the generation mix, including solar PV which energy storage complements very well. Solar energy is generated disproportionately during the day, whereas energy usage is highest for most households in the late afternoon and evening.

The Green Bank has submitted a proposal to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for approval of a battery storage incentive under their Electric Efficiency Partners (EEP) Program through Docket Nos. 18-09-34 (i.e., Partner Application) and 18-12-35 (i.e., Technology Application). The purpose of the EEP Program is to “reduce demand for electricity, particularly peak demand, based on the use of demand-side technology.”<sup>2</sup> The Green Bank sees a great opportunity to deploy energy storage along with solar PV to contribute to the goals of the EEP Program, increase the value of solar PV to the grid and all ratepayers, and support deployment and commercialization of energy storage – a technology whose time has come and will facilitate modernization of the grid and integration of DERs.

The Green Bank looks forward to working with the Energy & Technology Committee to understand how the combination of energy storage and distributed generation will reduce the burden of energy costs on ratepayers.

Questions on this document may be submitted to the Green Bank’s Legislative Liaison Matt Macunas, reachable at [matt.macunas@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:matt.macunas@ctgreenbank.com) or at (860) 257-2889.

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<sup>2</sup> Enhanced Demand-Side Management Technologies” means demand-side management solutions, customer-side emergency dispatchable generation resources, customer-side renewable energy generation, load shifting technologies and conservation and load management technologies that reduce electric distribution customers’ electric demand, and high efficiency natural gas and oil boilers and furnaces.