



Testimony of Robin Dutta on Behalf of SunPower Corporation
in Support of

Proposed House Bill 5002 – AAC the Development of a Green New Deal

Proposed House Bill 6237 – AAC Requiring a Study of Energy Storage Projects
and Distributed Generation in the State

Proposed House Bill 6239 – AAC Electric Suppliers, Direct Billing and Clean
Energy Facilities

Proposed Senate Bill 220 – AAC Certain Solar Power Facilities and Net Metering
Credits for Municipalities Where Such Facilities are Located

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro, and
members of the Joint Committee on Energy and Technology:

My name is Robin Dutta, and I am the Director of Market Development and Policy for SunPower Corporation. SunPower is a global technology company involved in every step of the solar system supply chain. SunPower has over 7,000 employees worldwide, the world's highest efficiency solar photovoltaic panel technology, growing development of solar plus storage projects, and an extensive national dealer network mostly consisting of locally-owned small businesses. In Connecticut, SunPower has 11 local companies in our dealer network, who develop and install residential and commercial projects, representing several hundred full-time workers in Connecticut. SunPower also has an operations facility in Newington that supports our residential business.

SunPower supports the intent behind the four bills listed above, though it is our testimony that their implementation will be impossible under the current regulatory framework in Connecticut.

From the proposed language before us today, PHB 6239 appears to support the development of community solar on a utility scale by allowing for direct billing of customers by third party suppliers. PHB 6237 would require a study of energy storage as a key element of reaching Connecticut's distributed energy goals. PSB 220 would require the retention of credits for net metering by the municipality that hosts a solar facility but sells that power to another municipality. These are concepts worth exploring.

Most importantly, PHB 5002 expresses a desire on the part of the General Assembly to expand renewable energy opportunities and energy efficiency programs in Connecticut in an effort to not only improve our environment but create jobs in a new green economy. SunPower wholly endorses the goals expressed in a “Green New Deal” and looks forward to participating in its development.

However, it is critical for the committee to understand that none of the goals expressed in these proposed bills are possible under the current regulatory framework in Connecticut. The legislature’s adoption last year of Section 7 of Public Act 18-50, also known as Senate Bill 9, makes the aspirations expressed in these four bills before you today impossible to achieve.

For example, the goal of PSB 220 to share net metering credits with municipalities that host solar projects cannot be achieved if net metering, and virtual net metering for municipalities, is eliminated. The energy storage opportunities sought to be studied in PHB 6237 is pointless, because the instantaneous netting required by P.A. 18-50 makes energy storage financially impractical. Similarly, the promise of community solar expressed in PHB 6239 cannot be realized once the commercial solar provisions of P.A. 18-50 become effective.

And certainly, the prospects of a Green New Deal in Connecticut cannot be realized if P.A. 18-50 is fully enacted. Unlike surrounding states like New York and Massachusetts, Connecticut has taken a giant step backward in the development of its renewable industries. Whereas Connecticut created over 2,100 jobs in the solar industry alone, those companies with a presence here, including multiple SunPower dealers, are already making plans to shift those jobs to neighboring states. As it stands, P.A. 18-50 threatens the existing investments SunPower has made in Connecticut and the jobs we have created, and it prevents additional investment of any kind.

A commitment for a Green New Deal requires a commitment for a distributed grid. This distributed grid opens access for homeowners and businesses to acquire solar systems on their property, ensures their right of self-consumption, and provides a means for Connecticut’s energy consumers to save money. A distributed grid creates additional resiliency and reliability for Connecticut in the face of super storms and cyber-attacks. It also reduces Connecticut’s reliance on far-away central generation plants, reducing the region’s carbon footprint and mitigating the high cost of dirty, peak power. A Green New Deal can benefit individual energy consumers and ratepayers at large. It can create a more efficient electric grid, improve on the traditional utility model that exists today, and create thousands of local jobs in the process.

Across New England and the Tri-State area, there is a massive bi-partisan movement of states aggressively increasing their renewable energy policies, with a specific emphasis on supporting

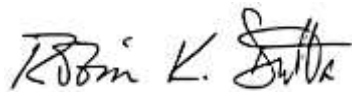
distributed solar. Connecticut's neighbors are moving away from the traditional utility model. The Baker Administration released a new solar program meant to double the Massachusetts distributed solar mandates to over 3 GW. New York announced their own Green New Deal and Governor Cuomo proposed a new 6 GW distributed solar goal. New Jersey is working on a new solar program for the next decade, building off the nearly 3 GW of solar currently online. All states rely on net metering, and recognize the importance of properly valuing distributed energy that is consumed and exported to the grid.

If this committee is seriously committed to promoting a Green New Deal, as well as the goals of these other bills on today's agenda, it first must address the problems created by Section 7 of P.A. 18-50. The solution does not require a wholesale repeal of the law, but rather a measured approach that includes an extension of existing programs while we study what other states are doing regarding valuing distributed energy and then crafting an approach that places the distributed solar industry on a path towards an incentive-free and sustainable future.

As you know, the committee leadership has been provided with proposed legislative language developed and endorsed by over 40 organizations from the renewable energy industry and the environmental community. Collectively, we urge you to accept that language as the starting point toward correcting the serious mistakes enacted last year that threaten to eviscerate the future of renewables in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin K. Dutta". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robin K. Dutta
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SunPower Corporation
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