Dear Energy and Technology Committee Member,

I am writing today for your support to add real solutions to HB 7251 that will ensure a healthy future for solar in Connecticut.

Connecticut needs strong solar policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet our climate mandates. Net metering is THE critical policy behind solar development in Connecticut and across the nation.

Net metering provides a credit to solar energy producers (including residential rooftop customers and businesses) who send their extra power to the electric grid. Unfortunately, Connecticut's current net metering program was eliminated by P.A. 18-50 (SB 9) last year and is on track to be replaced by two flawed policies similar to those that have killed solar jobs in other states.

The elimination of Connecticut's current net metering program:

- puts 2,200 solar jobs at risk.
- Harms solar growth and puts our state at risk of missing our climate goals.
- is based on unfounded "cost shift" theory—Solar provides only 1-2% of Connecticut's total electricity. U.S. Department of Energy found that cost shifts are "imperceptible" in areas with less than 10% solar, and the Brookings Institution found net metering is a net benefit to ratepayers.

Connecticut is running out of time for a fix—and needs this Committee to act boldly now.

HB 7251 takes some small, helpful steps, which should be retained. Here's how you can take bolder steps and fix HB 7251 to ensure solar growth in Connecticut:

- RESIDENTIAL SOLAR: Connecticut's solar policies have been successful and should be continued while the value of solar analysis is done, in order to maintain the success of Connecticut's solar industry while we better evaluate new successor policies.

- COMMERCIAL SOLAR: Continue net metering and the LREC/ZREC program until the value of solar analysis is complete and successor programs can be reevaluated, and lift arbitrary caps on commercial solar investment that will restrict development.

- SHARED SOLAR: Expanding and improving the shared solar program authorized in 2018 is important to meeting Connecticut's climate mandates and making solar access more equitable. Connecticut stands to lose BIG if we don't fix this.

Sincerely,
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