



March 5th, 2020

Earthlight Technologies

92 West Road, Ellington, CT 06029

SUPPORT - H.B. No. 5351 | AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND TO INCENTIVIZE AND IMPLEMENT ELECTRIC ENERGY STORAGE RESOURCES.

Committee Chairs and Members of the Energy & Technology Committee: Good morning. My name is April Harding and I live in Vernon, CT. I currently work for Earthlight Technologies as their Residential Solar Sales Administrator. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of energy programs as described in Bill **No. 5351**. I have been in the solar industry for about 2 years now and was previously employed with CTEC Solar. Last month, they decided to shut down their residential department due to unknown reasons. With that being said, I am truly thankful that I was able to find another family-owned Connecticut solar company to continue my career path and passion for solar.

However, with the concerns of our Residential Solar Incentives Program, I am fearful of what lies ahead of myself, fellow co-workers, and the homeowners out there that need and want to take advantage of this program. This program has been tremendously helpful thus far, not just for monetary reasons, but for the welfare of our environment. Now, it is in jeopardy as it will be hitting its capacity as early as July. With this news combined with the reducing Federal Investment tax credit that has already been reduced from 30% to 26%, it doesn't look very promising. In order to keep the solar momentum going, we are asking for an extension of incentives. This in turn will help us continue to install residential solar for the next year until the Value of Distributed Energy Resources study is complete and the tariff is set!

Without help from the Legislature to extend the RSIP, the residential solar market will be heading for a substantial recession. Last year it was extended by 50 megawatts, and that 50 megawatts are almost gone. When the RSIP runs out in July, there will be a gradual downfall with the amount of sales for solar PV systems. We need to stay consistent for the well-being of our CT solar companies.

We support a phased out incentive that bridges the gap between the end of the most recent 50MW extension, and January 2022 when the restructured net metering program is supposed to launch. I would like to thank the Committee for the consideration of my comments.