

From the Desk of:

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**COMMENTS TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REGARDING RAISED H.B. No. 5351**

Committee Chairs and Ranking Members and Member of the Energy & Technology Committee,

As a CT-based solar industry professional since 2009, I feel I'm qualified to speak to the areas for improvement within this bill. Section 1 of the raised bill states that the primary purpose of the bill is to address the following three items: Minimize electric distribution costs, maintain electric grid reliability, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The existing Solar & Storage installation industry in Connecticut is poised to support this purpose and will prove to be the strongest resource the State has in accomplishing these objectives.

- Minimizing cost: Our Solar & Storage industry is already extremely efficient and effective at bringing technologies to bear to address grid challenges. We also bring private capital to fund both large and small solar and storage projects, reducing or eliminating the need for rate-payer funded infrastructure upgrades.
- Grid Reliability: Our industry is already installing resiliency equipment within Connecticut and the surrounding states. In many cases, these installations are set to a "back-up mode" and not yet performing routine grid services, enabled by an engaged utility. This is due to a lack of program to coordinate the deployment of said equipment. New programs could unlock existing installations and promote new ones with an installation workforce adept at such projects.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Year after year, our industry has delivered more and more clean energy deployment at greater ratepayer benefit. In surrounding states with stronger program support than what CT has historically provided, our industry has brought exponentially more solar capacity at an exceptional pace, yet unseen within our State's borders.

If these objectives are to be successful, those who are best positioned to help must be brought to the starting line, not ushered off the track.

By extending the RSIP program through the end of 2021, you will ensure our industry is, at a minimum, *reserved* until the next phase of programs addressing these objectives can be rolled out. Letting RSIP expire, without a transition program to bridge the gap, would significantly diminish the capacity of the CT-based Solar & Storage industry. With a reduced workforce in CT at the end of 2021, tackling these new objectives will be harder, slower, and more expensive, counteracting the very purpose of this bill.

As a manager of a regional solar and storage installation team, I've already begun closing out Connecticut-based jobs and replacing them in New York. This lack of support and abundant uncertainty in my home state has led me to shift resources, jobs, and marketing endeavors across the border.

Remember, federal incentives are waning and can no longer contribute to the State's clean energy goals. We'll have to do it ourselves. Please consider adding verbiage to this bill, extending the RSIP capacity.

Thank you.