



9 Novelty Lane, Unit 9B
Essex, CT 06426

March 4, 2020

Energy and Technology Committee
201 Capital Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Comments on Proposed SB 10, HB 5351, SB 290

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Independence Solar is a developer, installer, and owner of commercial solar projects headquartered in Essex. As a CT-based clean energy small business we would love the opportunity to expand and grow our workforce. We provide high paying, high skill, career path jobs in this state. However, we have not been able to grow over the past several years due the recent lack of supportive and long duration public policy.

Independence Solar is excited about the potential for the following bills to create additional opportunities in the state to both grow the clean energy industry, add jobs, and make an impact in the urgent fight to curb the devastating effects of climate change.

SB 10 (Support)

- Support the requirement for 0% greenhouse gas emissions from CT's electricity sector by 2040.
- Support procurement of DR and energy storage to enable the transition to 100% clean energy.

HB 5351 (Support)

- Support deployment of 1,000 MW of energy storage by 2030.
- Solicitations should include **both** residential and C&I customer opportunities.
- Support solicitation for demonstration storage projects collocated with 2MW-20MW Class 1 resources.

SB 290 (Support with amendments)

- Support removing the exemption for virtual net metering ("VNM") projects (under section 16-244u) so that all net export Class 1 facilities, including VNM, will pay some property taxes to host municipalities.
- Amend to include a uniform capacity tax ("UCT") of \$5,000 per MW-AC for all annual net-export Class 1 facilities that come online after 12/31/2020. A UCT benefits all stakeholders as follows:
 - Host municipalities receive property tax revenue from any net-export Class 1 project, even if VNM.
 - Relieves huge current burden on host municipalities to negotiate one-off solar tax agreements for the 1-2 projects that may be located in their town.
 - Saves developers considerable expense in negotiating one-off agreements with towns, which in turn lowers their prices bid into the competitive auctions and **saves CT ratepayer dollars**.
- Amend to remove VNM program caps for next 2 years so additional municipalities can benefit from VNM savings while waiting for DEEP's new DG tariffs to go into effect in 2022 or later.

Independence Solar would like to thank the Committee for its consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

James Schwartz

James Schwartz
Co-Owner
Independence Solar, LLC