



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun, Inc.
To the Committee on Energy & Technology
March 4, 2021

In SUPPORT, with amendment, of Senate Bill 951: AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS SOLICITATIONS

Chairs Arconti and Needleman, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Sunrun is supportive, with amendment, of the intent of SB 951 and most of the specific provisions which are intended to protect consumers and increase transparency and accountability in the solar industry. We are committed to providing an exceptional experience for our potential customers and have worked in states across the country to implement effective, practical consumer protection measures. In Connecticut, as part of PURA Docket 20-07-01 establishing the net metering successor tariffs, Sunrun advocated for improved consumer protections including the creation of a customer disclosure form and recommended a stakeholder process be established to work on other consumer protection measures. In our experience, robust discussion between the industry and legislators or regulators tends to produce the most well-rounded, effective, and implementable consumer protection measures.

Because the language in SB 951 is adapted from the statutes regarding oversight of third-party energy suppliers, there are a few provisions we request the Committee consider amending to better reflect the differences between the industries, and which would provide a more complete regulatory framework for solar providers. As just one example, as drafted the bill would require an annual report of agents working on behalf of a solar provider be filed with PURA. This requirement would be duplicative as solar sales agents are already required to obtain Home Improvement Salesman licenses and regulated through the Department of Consumer Protection, and such information is available through an online searchable database.¹ To our knowledge, third party supplier agents are not required to obtain such licenses which is why that information is provided to PURA. This is one example of several key differences between third party energy suppliers and solar providers which must be accounted for to ensure this bill creates a workable and effective framework.

As we are still reviewing the bill and developing our complete list of recommendations, we would ask the Committee for the opportunity to further discuss our recommendations prior to it being reported out of Committee.

Sincerely,

Kyle Wallace
Sr. Manager, Public Policy

¹ Home Improvement Salesman licenses can be verified at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/License-Services-Division/License-Division/Verify-a-License-Permit-or-Registration>