

March 7, 2021

Dear Sen. Needleman, Rep. Arconti and all distinguished members of the Energy & Technology Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in OPPOSITION to:

**Raised SB 993**  
**Removing the Property Tax Exemption for Solar Projects & Reclassifying the Tax Calculation of Solar Projects on Single Parcels of Land**

Subdivision (57) of section 12-81 of the general statutes has long provided an exceptionally valuable financial benefit in the form of a property tax abatement to residential and commercial/industrial owners who choose to install solar panels or other Class 1 renewable energy source to their property. Importantly, the abatement applies only to the additional value added to the property as a result of the Class I renewable energy installation, but leaves the remainder of the property taxable at its assessed rate. The abatement recognizes and monetizes the societal benefit offered by the installation of Class 1 resources on private property at significant private expense.

The proposed amendments to 12-81(57) in raised Bill 993 would, I fear, have serious unintended consequences. The draft language, in pertinent part with proposed amendment underlined, is as follows:

*The following-described property shall be exempt from taxation:*

. . .

*(57) (A) (i) Any Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1, or hydropower facility described in subdivision (21) of subsection (a) of section 16-1, installed for the generation of electricity capacity greater than seven megawatts for private residential use or on a farm, as defined in subsection (q) of section 1-1, provided such installation occurs on or after October 1, 2007, and further provided such installation is for a single family dwelling, a multifamily dwelling consisting of two to four units or a farm, ...*

As drafted, this amendment would eliminate the property tax abatement for every residential or farm owner of a solar array in Connecticut unless the solar array is larger than 7 megawatts. Given that 7 MW is roughly equivalent to the size of a solar array sufficient to fully energize about 800 houses, I would venture that there is not one “single family dwelling, a multifamily dwelling consisting of two to four units or a farm” in Connecticut to which the property tax abatement that would survive SB 993 would apply.

I urge that the proposed amendment noted above be deleted and that property tax abatements for Class 1 renewable sources remain in place for residential, commercial and industrial installations. Please also note that Subdivision (57) of section 12-81 may require amendment to accord with the PURA docket Implementing Section 3 of PA 19-35, which could allow residential solar installations to be marginally oversized in order to prepare for future electrification of HVAC and adoption of EVs.

With respect to the proposed amendments at lines 13-16 of Raised SB 993, SB 862 appears to be a more effective vehicle to address the issue and has been thoroughly briefed through previous testimony.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Raised SB 993.

Arthur Helmus