

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-297

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR CUSTOMERS OF

Title: SOLAR POWER COMPANIES.

Vote Date: 3/21/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/7/2024

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Energy and Technology Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

As the solar industry continues to grow in Connecticut, it is important to ensure that consumer protections on the residential solar market are enforced, so consumers will not be vulnerable to unethical practices from the industry. Solar provides a way to reach climate goals in Connecticut and its distribution to residential areas is encouraged, but without proper protections, third party suppliers may engage in abusive marketing. This bill proposes the creation of a task force to make recommendations on solar regulations, and establishes requirements for residential solar solicitations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Bryan Cafferelli, Commissioner, Department of Consumer Protection

S.B. 297: AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR CUSTOMERS OF SOLAR POWER COMPANIES.

The DCP is in support of **SB-297** to bolster protections for consumers from unscrupulous or unfair trade practices by industry participants. They support the establishment of a task force to help ensure that protections are enforced.

Katie Dykes, Commissioner, CT DEEP Senate Bill No. 297 – An Act Concerning

Consumer Protection for Customers of Solar Power Companies DEEP supports the bill because it is important to develop reasonable consumer protections on the residential solar market for consumer entering long term commitments.

Marissa Gillett, Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Raised S.B. No. 297 – An Act Concerning Consumer Protection for Customers of Solar Power Companies PURA is committed to ensuring that adequate consumer protection is in

place for RRES program and Non-RRES program, with a focus on protection for the low-income and undeserved customers.

Claire Coleman, Office of Consumer Counsel

S.B. 297, An Act Concerning Consumer Protection for Customers of Solar Power Companies

OCC is in support of this proposal to mandate procedures that residential solar providers and agents must follow when conducting solicitation. OCC appreciates the committee's attention to protect consumers from abusive marketing and bad actors in third party suppliers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

John Erlingheuser, Senior Director of Advocacy, AARP Connecticut

S.B. No. 297 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR CUSTOMERS OF SOLAR POWER COMPANIES

AARP supports SB-297 which establishes a taskforce to study policies to improve consumer protection for customer when solicited by solar power companies. It's important that in the robust solar power market in Connecticut consumer are protected from misleading and aggressive sales practices.

Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director, CRCJ, SB 297, An Act Concerning Consumer Protection for Customers of Solar Power Companies

The Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs are in support of SB-297 because consumers are likely to go solar if they have confidence solar programs solicited by the solar companies. The bill if passed would promote reliability, quality, and prevent fraud and misleading marketing.

The following are also in support of **SB-297, An Act Concerning Consumer Protection for Customers of Solar Power Companies:**

Chelsea Farrell, Trinity Solar

Sean Riel, Director Sales Operations, Earthlight Technologies LLC

Eric Drouin, town resident of Enfield

Mike Trahan, Connecticut Storage & Solar Association

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following oppose **SB-297 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR CUSTOMERS OF SOLAR POWER COMPANIES:**

Kyle Wallace, VP Public Policy, Posigen

Laura Haney, town resident of East Windsor

Chris Worley, Director of Policy, Sunrun

Reported by: Josh Reyes and Abigail Lockwood Date: 4/1/2024