

Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Steinberg,

My name is Wesley Schrock, head of policy at BrightSaver.org, a California-based, national nonprofit enabling the U.S. plug-in solar market by reducing regulatory uncertainty and accelerating safe adoption. I am submitting testimony to encourage the Committee to support HB-5340 to allow the people of Connecticut to use plug-in solar, helping them to save money by reducing their electricity bills.

I recommend 2 amendments to the bill language:

1. **Explicitly exempt systems from net metering:** While Sec. 5 (b) exempts plug-in solar from interconnection agreement, Sec. 5 makes no mention of net metering. Most states' proposed legislation explicitly exempts from both interconnection and net metering.
2. **System sizing:** Rather than limiting consumers to 1 plug-in system per meter as Sec. 5 (b) does, establish a maximum aggregate AC power output of 1,200 watts per meter or service address. Given that plug-in systems are modular, this provides consumers the option of reaching the 1200 W threshold with, for example, 2 600 W systems plugged into different outlets in different locations.

By passing legislation enabling plug-in solar, CT will be joining a national movement, and in so doing, building a market for plug-in solar in the US. Last year, Utah was the first state to pass legislation, enacting H.B. 340, a bipartisan reform exempting plug-in solar from interconnection rules. Immediately, two companies began selling systems in Utah.

This year, 30 states have introduced legislation. In conversations with manufacturers (both those selling in Utah and those sitting on the sidelines), with 5-6 more states on board, manufacturers will expand existing US market product offerings or enter the US market for the first time, selling in all states with legislation, including CT.

Given the sizable demand, we model that competition will drive system costs below \$1 per watt, with payback periods declining to 2-4 years.

HB-5340 ensures that plug-in solar systems are safe for consumers and for the grid. Systems installed according to safety standards cited in the bill will not:

- Shock users
- Overload circuits or create fire hazards
- Backfeed during a power outage, which protects line workers, firefighters, and anyone working on a multi-unit building

From a grid perspective, plug-in solar functions like energy efficiency measures, reducing stress on the grid.

Sincerely,

Wesley Schrock