

February 15, 2019

The Energy and Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Energy and Technology Committee Leaders,

The undersigned organizations and businesses strongly support the enclosed legislative proposal to address the near-term crisis facing Connecticut's solar industry, which employs more than 2,100 people. These jobs are in jeopardy without legislative action this session.

Last year's Senate Bill 9 (now PA 18-50) locked in the termination of "net metering," which will occur in October, if not sooner. Net metering is a critical clean energy policy offered in 38 states that provides electric bill credits to solar owners who send clean power to the grid.¹ With less than seven months before net metering expires, no successor program is in place for either the residential or commercial solar industries. We are now facing a cliff in the sustained, orderly development of solar energy in Connecticut.

There is consensus among PURA stakeholders that the process to replace net metering has been rushed, and that the new programs will not be ready in time. Merely providing PURA more time is not sufficient because the successor programs required by PA 18-50 are overly complicated, expensive to implement and have killed solar jobs in other states, including Maine, Utah, Arizona and Hawaii.²

Instead of rushing to implement harmful policies, we feel the state legislature should pause implementation of the new programs and continue Connecticut's status quo solar policies (net metering, RSIP, ZREC, etc.). During this time, Connecticut should do what dozens of other states have done: collect data from a value of solar study and use it to determine whether new programs are warranted.

The enclosed legislative proposal accomplishes these critical goals. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this language and respectfully encourage the committee to advance it to a public hearing.

Sincerely,

¹ <http://www.dsireusa.org/resources/detailed-summary-maps/>

² <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-by-state-2018/>

Acadia Center	Hartford, CT
Allco Renewable Energy	New York, NY
Coalition for Community Solar Access	Boston, MA
Clean Water Action	East Berlin, CT
Connecticut Citizen Action Group	Hartford, CT
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities	New Haven, CT
Connecticut Fund for the Environment	New Haven, CT
CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs	Hartford, CT
C-TEC Solar	Bloomfield, CT
Earthlight Technologies	Ellington, CT
EcoSmart Home Services	East Berlin, CT
Environment Connecticut	Hartford, CT
EnterSolar	New York, NY
Fight the Hike	New Haven, CT
Greenskies Renewable Energy	Middletown, CT
JD Solar Solutions	Glastonbury, CT
Litchfield Hills Solar	Litchfield, CT
Lodestar Energy	Avon, CT
MSL Group, Inc.	Milford, CT
New Haven Energy Task Force	New Haven, CT
NHS New Haven	New Haven, CT
Northeast Clean Energy Council	Boston, MA
Northeast Smart Energy	Ridgefield, CT
Operation Fuel	Hartford, CT
People's Action for Clean Energy	West Simsbury, CT
PosiGen	Bridgeport, CT
PurePoint Energy	Norwalk, CT
Renewable Energy & Efficiency Business Association	West Hartford, CT
SHR Energy	Weston, CT
Solar Connecticut	Haddam, CT
Solar Energy Industries Association	Washington, DC
Sol Systems	Washington, DC
Star Power	Southport, CT
SunPower	Newington, CT
Sunrun	Hartford, CT
The Nature Conservancy	New Haven, CT
Trinity Solar	Stratford, CT
Verogy	Hartford, CT
Vivint Solar	North Haven, CT