

Dear Energy & Technology Committee,

My name is Amy Merli and I live in downtown Hartford. As a lifelong resident of Connecticut I would like to submit my personal testimony regarding our energy.

As everyone is reflecting on the aftermath of power outages from the recent tropical storm. It is very clear we need to invest in smaller utilities that prioritize renewable energy rather than investing in dangerous fossil fuels. We need to put the “public” back in public utilities and ensure that the utility works for the ratepayers, not the other way around.

- **Expand energy storage.** The only way we can increase renewable energy procurement, including offshore wind, solar, hydropower etc. is to expand storage. Without it we will lack the necessary infrastructure to expand renewable energy to meet our goals.
- **Expand the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP)** to provide more economical solar options to homeowners and lower the burden on the grid.
- **Keep solar net-metering until 2022.** This will allow PURA to focus on other grid modification efforts instead of a rushed and unnecessary net-metering successor program.
- **Clarify the property tax exemption for solar and storage.** Without this clarification, towns will continue to improperly assess property taxes on residential solar which will hurt the solar market.
- **Repeal the Pipeline Tax.** Connecticut should require legislative approval for all new gas infrastructure to protect consumers from costly, polluting, and unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Amy Merli