



**Legislative Testimony of the Connecticut Green Bank**  
Energy and Technology Committee  
September 8, 2020

**Regarding LCO Draft No. 3920**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**COMPANIES AND REVISING THE REGULATION OF OTHER PUBLIC UTILITIES**

*As the nation's first green bank, the Connecticut Green Bank ("Green Bank") leverages the limited public resources it receives to attract multiples of private investment to scale up clean energy deployment. Since its inception, the Green Bank has mobilized over \$1.9 billion of investment into Connecticut's clean energy economy at nearly a 7 to 1 leverage ratio of private to public funds, supported the creation of over 23,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, reduced the energy burden on over 50,000 families and businesses, deployed over 425 MW of clean energy, helped avoid over 8.9 million tons of CO2 emissions over the life of the projects, and generated nearly \$90 million in individual income, corporate, and sales tax revenues to the State of Connecticut through fiscal year 2020.*

The Green Bank **supports bill draft LCO No. 3920** ("the Bill") and appreciates the opportunity to comment.

The Green Bank would like to start by acknowledging the Energy & Technology Committee ("Committee") for providing a responsible, safe, and accessible online space to allow for public comment and testimony given the ongoing need to social distance and continue our state's vigilance in addressing COVID-19.

The Committee is addressing several important issues in the Bill that have arisen in recent months with respect to increased electric rates and storm response to Tropical Storm Isaias.

The Green Bank would like to make a few comments on the Bill, including:

- **Resilience** – the inclusion of "resilience" throughout the Bill is important, including its definition (i.e., Sections 1 and 19) and inclusion in various existing public policies (e.g., microgrid grant program).

The Green Bank would suggest that the Committee, prior to the onset of COVID-19, was certainly concerned about resilience as noted in Raised House Bill No. 5351 ("HB 5351"). One of the purposes of HB 5351 was to "maintain electric grid reliability" with such programs "...providing multiple types of benefits to the electric grid, including, but not limited to, customer, local, or community resilience,..." The Green Bank would suggest that the Committee consider including HB 5351 within the Bill in

order to further bolster public policy towards the modernization of our electric grid as sought by the Committee and supported by public comment prior to COVID-19.

- **Vulnerable Communities** – the inclusion of “vulnerable communities” throughout the Bill is also important, including its indirect recognition of the need for interim rate decreases for low-income and small businesses for economic development (i.e., Section 5), its definition (i.e., Section 19), and the broadening of the Conservation and Load Management Plan programs from benefitting the “system” to benefitting “society” (i.e., Section 22).

As the Committee is aware, the Green Bank’s priority focus is ensuring increased investment and deployment of clean energy in low-to-moderate income (“LMI”) communities. The Green Bank defines LMI communities as less than 100 percent of area median income. In FY 2020, 56% of projects (i.e., 5,207 projects), 48% of deployment (i.e., 32.4 MW), and 49% of investment (i.e., nearly \$125 million) for residential end-use customers, was located in LMI communities.<sup>1</sup> Since FY 2012, the Green Bank has enabled nearly \$700 million of clean energy investment for residential end-use customers located in LMI communities.<sup>2</sup> Connecticut is among the few states across this country known as a “Solar with Justice” state – “parity” when it comes to income (i.e., LMI) and “beyond parity” when it comes to communities of color (i.e., Black and Hispanic households) for residential solar PV deployment.<sup>3</sup>

The Committee is also aware that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”), through its Equitable Modern Grid proceeding Docket No. 17-12-03RE01<sup>4</sup> has made “energy affordability” for families and businesses a top priority for the future of Connecticut’s electric grid. Continuing to reduce the burden of energy costs on our families and businesses is especially important during these times.

As we all know, the increased deployment of distributed energy resources, such as solar PV, battery storage, and load management, increase grid reliability and resilience – helping to decentralize the electric grid. The Bill’s inclusion of resilience and vulnerable communities would further bolster Connecticut’s commitment to ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens and small businesses are provided with cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable sources of energy.

Questions on this document may be submitted to the Green Bank’s Legislative Liaison Matt Macunas, reachable at [matt.macunas@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:matt.macunas@ctgreenbank.com) or at (860) 257-2889.

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<sup>1</sup> FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Connecticut Green Bank (forthcoming)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cleangroup.org/ceg-resources/resource/solar-with-justice/> and <https://emp.lbl.gov/news/new-berkeley-lab-report-solar-adopter-income>

<sup>4</sup> “PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies – Energy Affordability”