

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

We appreciate your work on improving the reliability of the state's electricity grid while increasing utility accountability and advancing the state's environmental goals with LCO 3920. I especially appreciate the bill's expansion of eligibility for the microgrid and resilience grant program, as well as the bill's recognition that adherence to the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals is a critical element of improving the reliability and resilience of our electricity grid.

I support this great start to ensure that Connecticut's electric utilities will be prepared to meet the challenge of increasingly frequent storm events as a result of climate change, while recognizing the need to support clean, reliable, and affordable electricity generation in a manner that leverages competition, reduces ratepayer risk, and achieves the state's climate goals.

I suggest that putting renewable power generation where it is most needed, in densely populated areas with large, flat-roofed commercial and industrial buildings where solar arrays can be placed without vulnerable, long-distance infrastructure. This would also avoid the practice of clearing large swaths of carbon-storing forestland and agricultural lands. We have hundreds of acres of unused space on buildings around the state. Let's use it!

But there are a few very important issues I would like to see added to this bill to make it even more effective:

Expand energy storage. Increased energy storage is essential to building resilience and reliability into our electricity grid. Coupled with rooftop solar, energy storage systems provide power for customers when the grid itself is down.

Expand the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP) to provide more economical solar options to homeowners and lower the burden on the grid. Like many sectors of the economy, the solar industry was negatively impacted by COVID-19, and expanding the RSIP program would provide the stability and support needed to ensure that we remain on track to more widely deploy solar and energy storage systems in the state. This is good for improving the reliability and resilience of the grid and is also a smart COVID-19 recovery measure.

Keep solar net metering until 2022. As with the expansion of RSIP and energy storage, maintaining the current net metering program for another year will provide stability to the solar industry and ensure predictability for homeowners looking to invest in clean, renewable technology. Given the other challenges facing the state, this would also allow PURA to focus on its grid modification efforts instead of a rushed new tariff program.

Thank you for tackling these important issues. Connecticut needs comprehensive climate change policies today for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Evan Griswold  
Old Lyme, CT