



9 Novelty Lane, Unit 9B  
Essex, CT 06426

September 7, 2020

Energy and Technology Committee  
201 Capital Ave  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Comments on Tack Back Our Grid Act – Expand Virtual Net Metering Program**

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Independence Solar is a developer and installer of commercial solar projects headquartered in Essex. As a CT-based clean energy small business we have been hard hit by the COVID pandemic as the process of engaging and signing up new commercial customers has been made increasingly difficult under quarantine and social distancing protocols. Additionally, many of our customers are struggling and pushing off potential investments due to uncertainty about their business's prospects. This leaves us to make difficult decisions about retaining our workforce during this period if we do not have ample opportunities to pursue here in CT.

By including an expansion to the virtual net metering program ("VNM") as part of the Take Back Our Grid Act, the General Assembly could help to kick start a "green" recovery that would i) provide struggling commercial solar installers additional market opportunities in the near to medium term and ii) help CT's municipalities save money on the energy costs during these incredibly challenging budget times for local governments. The VNM program expansion would not require the expenditure of any State funds and would help to provide a crucial economic spark for the state's clean energy businesses and municipalities.

Independence Solar would like to thank the Committee for its consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

*James Schwartz*

James Schwartz  
Co-Owner  
Independence Solar, LLC