

**To: The Energy and Technology Committee of the CT General Assembly**

**From: Leigh Shemitz, (resident of Stamford CT)**

**RE: [LCO 3920 An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies and Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities](#).**

**Date: Sept 9, 2020**

I am writing to submit testimony to the Energy and Technology Committee.

My name is Leigh Shemitz. My address is 135 Hannahs Road, Stamford, CT, 06903.

My experience is that our family invested, 5 years ago, in solar for our home and I can personally see the immense benefits to the environment and to our family. We now pay just a pittance for electricity (we have reduced our use as well) and I support LCO 3920, so that others throughout the state can have access to solar systems. I am pleased that LCO 3920 includes a review of the ISO-New England grid. This provision is incredibly important to realizing ratepayer interests and keeping in concert with CT's policy goals and environmental protection efforts. If CT wants to invest in renewable energy and cut out fossil fuels, we must get out of ISO-New England.

In addition, other provisions should include:

1. Expansion of the Residential Solar Investment Program. I know from my own experience how expensive solar is on terms of upfront costs. As a state, we need to provide more economical solar options to homeowners and lower the burden on the grid.
2. Keep solar net-metering until 2022. From personal experience I can confirm that net metering works! It takes much of the uncertainty out of the household economics for solar- and as such it is critical to supporting the expansion of home solar systems.
3. Finally, a key provision should be to clarify the property tax exemption for solar and storage. I just had new neighbors move in (fleeing NYC!) and one of their first questions was about our solar system. I was able

to explain that Stamford has a provision where the added value of household solar will not increase property taxes. This will literally be factor as they calculate whether to add solar to their new home. So it is clear that clarifying the property tax exemption for solar and storage should be part of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of LCO 3920. We have a long way to go for energy efficiency in our State, and the above provisions will, based on my personal experience as a Stamford resident with household solar, enable more families to make the best choice for them, and our state, by investing in solar.