



Senators Needleman, Formica, Representatives Arconti and Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, Greenskies submits this testimony in response to LCO 3916 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND REVISING REGULATION OF OTHER PUBLIC UTILITIES. We respectfully request that the bill be made more comprehensive in scope to include funding for the Virtual Net Metering (VNM) program.

Greenskies has been a Connecticut-headquartered company since 2008 and provides good paying jobs with good benefits to more than 50 employees who call Connecticut home. Greenskies has worked hard to become the leading commercial and industrial (C&I) solar developer in the United States and one of the nation's leading municipal solar installers. Greenskies offers integrated solar and battery-storage solutions to C&I, municipal, educational and utility customers and constructed and operates over 230 MW of C&I solar projects throughout the country. The company was ranked #1 by Solar Power World in 2019 for cumulative commercial installations.

Connecticut's solar industry has grown to over 100 companies employing thousands of people and the state's VNM program has been one of the prime drivers of the solar market in Connecticut. VNM is also a major economic tool for our agricultural sector, municipalities and state facilities by allowing them to replace high cost grid energy with low cost clean, renewable energy. These savings often go well into the million dollar range.

Greenskies appreciates the funding made available in the 2019 session to address "stranded" projects in the VNM queue, unfortunately the funding fell short of addressing the high demand that exists. The lack of funding over the years has minimized and even frozen the ability to utilize this program.

Greenskies strongly urges the Energy and Technology Committee to include additional funding for VNM, a program that does not require state budget funding, in this bill. Failure to fund the program would be detrimental to the state's solar industry. Inaction would cause a devastating lag in development that would result in layoffs and company closures. Additionally, our farms, municipalities and higher education institutions are facing unprecedented financial challenges due to the pandemic and they simply cannot wait another year for financial relief to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We'd be happy to answer any questions.

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