

S.B. No.10 – AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE
Comments of Bernie Pelletier, People’s Action for Clean Energy (PACE)

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I am here to speak in favor of SB10.

My name is Bernie Pelletier and I am Vice President of PACE (People’s Action for Clean Energy). PACE has advocated for clean energy and efficiency in our state for over 40 years. The PACE 100PercentCT project has worked with over 20 towns in CT to develop a bottom -up town roadmap to a 100 Percent renewable future.

A zero GHG electric grid is fundamental to our model, which is based on the work of Professor Mark Z Jacobson of Stanford university. In the future we seek for our towns, and thus our state, almost everything is electric (heating, cooling and transportation). A zero emissions grid is the “without which nothing” of our plan.

As we work towards that future, tightening the emissions standard on medium and heavy-duty vehicles as proposed in SB 10 is a do-able and valuable interim step, as we proceed to electrification.

For the sake of emphasis, we note that SB 10 needs to be accompanied with action:

- We must not on the one hand call for carbon free electricity by 2040 and then build additional natural gas power plants
- We must unshackle the deployment of renewables – in front of the meter and in back of the meter by:
 - Encouraging the creation of shared solar facilities
 - Completing a Value of Solar study that fairly compensates new solar generation
 - Removing the cap on virtual net metering so towns and cities can deploy and use all the power they can make
 - Training and developing the work force needed to build and maintain this future
 - Keeping incentive programs in place *when the federal solar tariffs artificially skew the economics of solar.*

In today’s session SB 10 is presented as a separate piece of legislation but many of the bills before the committee today enable or detract from our ability to achieve SB10. I note them quickly:

- Energy storage as outline in HB 5351 is crucial to successfully integrating renewables on to our grid;
- SB 290 would tax renewable installations and thus make them more difficult to implement;
- HB 5348 – Community Choice Aggregation is a key building block to adoption of renewables in California and Massachusetts. The sooner we add this tool to the municipal tool box the better.

This committee presides over clean energy at a pivotal time in history. You have the power to make things better. Thank you.