



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
Establishing a Full Scale Shared Solar Program

SB 336- AAC Community Shared Solar

BACKGROUND

“Community solar” or “shared solar” is a valuable energy solution that allows residents and businesses to reap the benefits of clean solar power, regardless of whether they themselves are able to install solar PV panels on their roofs. The diverse benefits of shared solar include:

- ✓ Saving money on ratepayers’ electric bills;
- ✓ Providing greater flexibility in the siting of clean energy projects;
- ✓ Improving grid reliability, especially during extreme weather events and natural disasters; and
- ✓ Driving private investment and creating good paying green jobs in our state.

Solar power is a rapidly growing industry in Connecticut and across the U.S., but our state has yet to realize the benefits of shared solar. Last year, Connecticut’s solar industry employed more than 2,160 people, and ranked 20th in the nation in solar jobs, per capita. By comparison, Massachusetts has approved 48 shared solar projects across 30 municipalities, for a total of 194 MW. **MA’s community solar program brought in over \$150 million in private investment in its first few years. In 2017, the solar industry in MA employed over 11,500 jobs and ranked 7th in the nation in solar jobs, per capita.**

JUSTIFICATION

According to a recent report by Vote Solar (a non-profit solar advocacy group), a full scale shared solar program of 200 MW would generate:

- Over \$370 million in economic benefits;
- Create more than 2,570 new jobs in our state;
- Generate over \$81 million in local property tax revenues; and
- Produce millions of dollars in health benefits across our state.

15 states and the District of Columbia have established shared solar programs since 2010, while Connecticut lags behind with no operational shared solar projects on the grid. **CCE strongly supports the establishment of a full-scale shared solar program, to increase access to clean solar power, reduce electric bills for Connecticut businesses and residents, and create millions in economic benefits for our state.**

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS SB 336 AAC
COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR**

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.