



**Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the Energy and Technology Committee
September 8, 2020**

IN SUPPORT of LCO No. 3920 – An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies and Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities

Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, Vice Chairs Lesser and Allie-Brennan, and distinguished members of the Energy & Technology Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation. Sunrun encourages the committee to improve it by:

- 1) continuing the Green Bank's Residential Solar Incentive Program (RSIP) to help residents take control of their own power with home solar and batteries, and
- 2) including House Bill 5351 to incentive the adoption of energy storage and clean backup power. Without legislative action during the special session, RSIP will expire, negatively impacting the still-recovering solar industry and putting backup power further out of reach of your constituents.

Sunrun would like to express its sympathy for residents who recently endured prolonged outages and hardship from Tropical Storm Isaias. With residents searching for public facilities to charge their phones and escape the heat – an endeavor further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic – the basic necessity to be safe at home – with power – has never before been felt so acutely.

Tropical Storm Isaias laid bare the need for greater resilience and policies that allow residents to take control of their own power. Rechargeable home solar batteries provide residents the option of clean backup power. With a home solar and battery system, when the power goes off, the home battery immediately powers the home, and recharges the next day when the sun comes up. Sunrun customers are able to power through days-long outages in this way and achieve true home energy security.

While Connecticut has long been a leader on solar energy, it unfortunately has lagged behind its neighbors on energy storage policy. While Sunrun installs home batteries in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey – where our customers powered through



Tropical Storm Isaias – we do not currently install home batteries in Connecticut due to a lack of supportive policies. It is for this reason that we hope the Committee continues the RSIP program (which has no budget impact on taxpayers or ratepayers) and adopts House Bill 5351, which received overwhelming support during the March 5 public hearing. Taking these steps will improve energy resilience, make Connecticut a leader on energy storage and empower residents to take control of their power to keep their families safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. As a national solar, storage and energy services company, Sunrun has a broad view of states’ clean energy policies and stands ready to assist the Committee and Connecticut with its policy goals.

Sincerely,

Christopher Rauscher
Director, Policy & Storage
Sunrun

About Sunrun

Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company in the country, and has helped Connecticut residents go solar since 2015. Our local office and warehouse is located at 75 Brainard Road in Hartford, and our employees and customers live across Connecticut.

When Sunrun was founded in 2007, it pioneered the “solar-as-a-service” business model, which has expanded the benefits of solar energy to hundreds of thousands of American households. In addition to selling solar energy systems, Sunrun installs, owns and maintains systems on customer homes for a contract term, creating a worry-free way to go solar and achieve utility bill savings without a significant upfront payment or loan. This “third-party ownership” model has expanded solar access to tens of thousands of Connecticut residents who could not have accessed solar otherwise, and accounts for about 75% of the state’s residential solar market.¹

¹ Connecticut Green Bank data.