Communicating with legislators and the Governor about shared solar, and writing letters to the editor of your local news outlet, are powerful ways to bring shared solar to public attention and build public support. The letter below can be adapted to mention a specific project or can be used to show support for shared solar generally. Feel free to adapt them to your own circumstances.

**Letter to public officials or to the editor**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_ or Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Governor Lamont or the Editor],

I am writing to bring to your attention and encourage your support for shared solar.

Shared solar allows any electricity customer to go solar at discounted rates. The vast majority of the 30,000 Connecticut customers who have gone solar are homeowners who live in single family dwellings with roofs in good condition and little shade. Only about a quarter of electricity customers are like that.

 [For example, we live in a multi-family building – we can’t put panels on our roof]

 [For example, our house is surrounded by beautiful trees that we don’t want to cut]

 [For example, we don’t own our home so we can’t install solar]

Shared solar allows customers to participate in larger arrays not located at their homes, with the savings automatically credited to their bills. Due to economies of scale, shared solar projects produce cheaper electricity than home systems. Shared solar is in use across the country, and in 2018 Connecticut passed of a limited shared solar law that goes into effect in 2020.

For years, we’ve paid some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. High energy costs make it harder to raise a family or run a business or government here, compared to other places. Almost all our electricity is still generated by a risky, costly mix of fossil fuels and nuclear; only about 2% is solar.

[For example, our electricity bill has gone from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_, even though we conserve]

[For example, my business pays \_\_\_\_ for power, which I’d rather use to increase salaries or …]

We must expand solar and other renewables to control rising costs and address the climate crisis. Shared solar allows everyone to play a part.

[to public officials]:

I am asking you to do your part to get control over rising electricity costs and take action on the climate crisis by supporting shared solar in every way you can, including: expanding the legislation so that the largest number of people are eligible; educating your constituents about shared solar and its benefits; and advocating for shared solar with other legislators and state officials.

Please let me know your thoughts on this important issue and what you will do to support shared solar.

[to the editor]

The best way to expand shared solar is to spread the word, identify others who are interested, and learn what’s involved in “subscribing” to a larger array. Companies that want to build shared solar projects need informed customers to make the projects work. A good resource is the shared solar toolkit put together by CT Fund for the Environment, available on their website.