



198 Park Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 231-8842  
[www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org](http://www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org)

Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps  
Environment Connecticut Program Director  
**Opposing** House Bill 5466, An Act Concerning Climate Change

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee  
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Environment Connecticut, I am submitting this testimony strongly opposing HB 5466. Environment Connecticut is a statewide, member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization. We have worked for many years to support proposals before the General Assembly that would cut Connecticut's emissions of global warming pollution.

***HB 5466 would effectively tie the hands of Connecticut's agencies as they work to implement our state's global warming and climate change laws.***

In 2008, the General Assembly passed the Connecticut Global Warming Solutions Act, Public Act 08-98. That law established mandatory limits on Connecticut's emissions of global warming pollution, requiring the state to reduce emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and gradually reduce emissions to achieve an 80% reduction by 2050.

Connecticut has already made great strides towards meeting its global warming pollution targets. For example, according to data analyzed in 2009 by Environment Connecticut, Connecticut's carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel consumption in 2007 were 3% below 1990 emissions. Ours is a record of success in cutting global warming pollution. This success is due in large part to multiple policies implemented by various state agencies.

HB 5466 appears to largely ignore the reality of Connecticut's existing global warming policy initiatives. Efforts to reduce global warming pollution are intrinsically tied to policies in areas ranging from energy efficiency, to land use planning, to transportation. This legislation would force DEP to devote its already over-stretched resources to unnecessary analysis of expenditures for policies that produce global warming pollution reductions even when such policies are only tangentially connected to global warming and climate change.

In effect, this legislation could tie up programs ranging from clean energy and energy efficiency, to mass transit, to solid waste management in a morass of red tape. This would roll back the state's efforts to combat climate change as well as a multitude of additional programs providing various benefits to the state's environment and economy.

Environment Connecticut urges the committee to reject HB 5466.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Phelps  
Program Director  
Environment Connecticut

*Environment Connecticut is a non-profit, member-supported environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open spaces.*

[www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org](http://www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org) / [www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut](https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut)