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Testimony of
Steven Guveyan, Connecticut Petroleum Council
RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO HB-5579 (CLIMATE CHANGE BILL)
March 11, 2016

The Connecticut Petroleum Council is a trade association representing major oil companies, independent oil & natural gas producers, refiners, terminal operators, pipelines and others in the energy business. Our comments today are limited to Section 3 of HB-5579.

Section 3 imposes a new statutory greenhouse gas reduction requirement in Connecticut to be met by January 1, 2030, however, the bill is silent on exactly what that requirement is, saying only that it will be set at a level to be determined by July 1, 2016 (subsection 2) by the DEEP Commissioner after consultation with the Governor's Council on Climate Change (subsection 4).

We object to the language incorporating a new 2030 greenhouse gas reduction level because no one knows what that requirement is, as it has not yet been agreed to---debated---or even proposed for public comment. Passage of this provision is premature since it locks everybody in Connecticut to an unknown standard to which they are being held accountable.

We recommend the following:

1. Delete Section 3 of the bill in its entirety and re-introduce it in 2017 once the Governor's Climate Change Council has vetted the interim rule which must be met by 2030, taken input, and hopefully achieved consensus. OR:

2. Leave Section 3 intact, and add a new sub section requiring the DEEP Commissioner and the Governor's Climate Change Council to report back to the Connecticut General Assembly on the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction rule once the reduction is quantified, and require that the legislature either agree or disagree with it, and if the latter, then to send the proposal back for reconsideration. Considering the magnitude of this proposal---and the time spent by the legislature debating the law when it was first adopted in 2008---it should be overseen and sanctioned by the General Assembly because the ramifications for Connecticut residents, businesses and the state itself will be enormous for decades to come. In short, this issue needs legislative oversight.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or comments.

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