

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Steve Cassano, Representative Ed Jutila, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Representative Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District, serving Berlin and Southington. I want to thank this committee for raising HB 5618: AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CARBON FOOTPRINT METHODOLOGY TO ANALYZE STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.

Two years ago, under PA 13-247, we asked the Department of Administrative Services to issue a report that detailed the possibility of using carbon footprints when analyzing potential state contracts. The purpose of creating such a standard is to make sure that we are both protecting our taxpayer dollars and protecting our environment. The report we received detailed a number of challenges in using this methodology. The most pressing of which is the need to make sure we have an easily measurable and understandable formula. This bill is meant to move us towards that by requiring our state agencies to work with the appropriate parties to come up with a carbon footprint methodology for transportation-related environmental impact. That proposal would then come back to all of us for consideration.

“Carbon footprint” data will help us figure out the total greenhouse gas emissions that are connected with a procurement contract. We all know the impact these gases have on our environment. They end up costing us money through repairs to weather-damaged infrastructure and homes, and updates to our public systems to ensure they are able to stand up to changing conditions. I believe that if we are able to come up with a carbon footprint methodology that works for all, we will be able to continue to purchase low-cost goods, and protect our environment at the same time.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.