Testimony of Environment Connecticut State Director Chris Phelps
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Transportation Committee

3/2/2016

Supporting SB 3, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF NEW AND USED CAR DEALERS

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, and members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Chris Phelps and I am State Director for Environment Connecticut. We are a nonprofit environmental organization advocating for clean energy, clean water, and a healthy environment in Connecticut. I thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments supporting Senate Bill 3.

For over a decade, Connecticut has been a leader of efforts to spur the innovation that has helped get increasing numbers of zero-emission vehicles, such as electric vehicles, onto our roads. In 2004, our state joined a handful of other states in enacting Clean Cars legislation that required automakers to sell more zero-emission vehicles. Today, we have more clean vehicles on the road, are less dependent on oil, and are beginning to make progress in cutting carbon pollution from transportation.

In the decade since passage of the Clean Cars law, the industry has built more zero emission vehicles, new manufacturers, including innovative electric vehicle manufacturers have entered the market, and consumers now have an increasing number of choices when shopping for clean cars. Connecticut's policy makers have also continued to build on the success of the Clean Cars law. Governor Malloy and Connecticut recently joined with other states in setting ambitious targets for increasing the number of zero-emission vehicles on our roads over the course of the next decade. And last year, Connecticut created a successful electric vehicle consumer incentive program.

Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act requires an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions statewide over the course of the next three decades. The transportation sector is responsible for a large amount of our carbon emissions. Therefore, a vital policy priority in our state's efforts to cut the pollution that is driving global warming, is to continue reducing emissions from vehicles.

Senate Bill 3 can play an important role in continuing the progress Connecticut has made towards transforming the market and moving towards zero-emission vehicles. It is a well-crafted measure, balancing competing interests, while protecting consumers, encouraging innovation and job growth, and will help get more zero-emission electric vehicles on the road statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments supporting Senate Bill 3. Environment Connecticut urges you to support this legislation.

Chris Phelps
State Director, Environment Connecticut