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Dear Environment Committee members,

My testimony today will address three bills.

1. Bill H. B. 7247: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CARBON PRICE FOR FOSSIL FUELS SOLD IN CONNECTICUT.

This broad ranging bill is a move in the right direction. It is funding positive for the citizens of Connecticut, by charging \$15.00/ton of carbon emissions on an industry that persistently pollutes as part of doing business, that there is no future cap on increasing fees, and that fees garnered be applied to assist citizens and business transition to renewable power.

May I suggest that wording be added to the bill citing fees be placed on the volume of fuel as it exits a fossil fuel producers facility, not at point of destination, the consumer. A recent gas leak study completed in Hartford by Dr. Nathan Phillips, University of Boston, Robert Ackley, Gas Safety Inc, Southborough, MA, and Dr. Yufeng Yang, Institut National des Sciences Appliquees, Lyon, France of which I will include with my testimony in a follow up email, illuminates gross under reporting of natural gas/methane leaks in Hartford. During their independent winter study Feb. 6 to March 26, 2016, 716 methane leaks were detected by the team. Leaks were found outside the children's hospital, Wadsworth Atheneum, XL Center, etc. The year between October 15, 2015, and October 17, 2016, PURA recorded only 139 leaks found in Hartford. In his survey Bob Ackley found 26 leaks on Main St, 17 on Asylum Ave., 17 on Maple, 16 on New Britain, and 15 along Albany Ave., etc. The volume of methane lost to the atmosphere is = 0.86 metric tons of methane/day = 313 metric tons/year = daily consumption of 214 households. In 2014 a law was passed, PA 14-152 An Act Concerning Lost and Unaccounted Gas. In it are five Trojan horse words, "lost and unaccounted for gas." The law is rigged, so that customers unknowingly pay for these leaks in their gas bills. Thus leaks are under reported and repairs not made. There is no incentive to do so.

Section B1 cites a fee of \$15.00/ton but does not identify what is the type of "ton." If it is metric then the revenue would be an additional \$4695.00/year. 350ct approves this bill.

2. Bill H. B. 7246: AN ACT ESTABLISHING PARITY FOR OIL AND GAS LEAK REPAIRS

To ask fossil fuel companies to repair identified leaks within 48 hours is reasonable. I would wish that there be a fine levied to motivate and that the law if enacted be effective from October 1, 2017, onward. Since this date has been put in parentheses, this puts into doubt when the law might be enacted. Polluting entities are masterful at manipulation for advantage and using the tactic of time delay would be one. Please make sure this bill is enacted in a timely manner and ignore company complaints that they need time to gear up. Much of what I said in the previous bill applies here. 350ct approves this bill.

3. Bill H. B. 6329: AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.

350ct supports this bill to prevent regulations allowing storage, disposal, handling, and use of hydraulic fracturing in Connecticut (Sec. 22a-142). This is a highly populated state bordering a scientifically recognized sensitive estuarine ecosystem (Long Island Sound) on which we depend, and to add further pollutants to this region would be irresponsible.

Sincerely yours,

Gale E. Ridge Ph.D

Ecologist and Evolutionary Biologist.

Legislative Chair and Steering Committee member of 350CT
Entomologist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station