



Testimony H.B. 5363, An Act Establishing a Carbon Price for Fossil Fuels Sold in Connecticut  
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Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demmico and members of the Environment Committee, these brief comments address H.B. 5363, which calls for a system of carbon pricing to address the public health and environmental damages inherent in fossil fuel combustion. Establishing a consistent price on carbon at the point of sale for gasoline, fuel oil and other fossil fuel products sold in Connecticut will force innovation to reduce emissions, which are currently above the state's 2020 goal.

With the signs of climate change more evident than ever -- from extreme weather to new drought risks in the last couple of years -- we believe it is appropriate to use the word "urgent" in describing the need to accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels.

The business case for carbon pricing is strong. Synapse Energy Economics estimates that a similar program in Massachusetts will create 2,000 to 4,000 jobs, a level we can aspire to as well in our similarly sized state. We recognize that interested parties such as the home heating oil industry testified in force last year against a proposed fee on their industry alone, a bias that the current bill avoids.

The bill frames a uniquely effective approach developed in consultation with neighboring states, a rigorous methodology that we endorse. We believe this policy tool is one of many that will be needed, along with continued participation in RGGI, a more ambitious transportation electrification initiative, and restoration of the Clean Energy Funds that have driven so much innovation.

The bill is well timed to build on the momentum of the Governor's Council on Climate Change and the new 3-year Comprehensive Energy Strategy, which provide respectively for the overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 45% by 2030, a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 40% by 2030. This bill creates a mechanism to incentivize and help finance this needed progress.

We strongly endorse this legislation and commend the political courage of those who have raised it. We believe the timing is right for leadership on this topic and promise you our support. Even though this is a short session, we believe the bill is well crafted and should be reported favorably out of committee and strongly advocated for passage this year.