

March 13, 2018

To: Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco and distinguished members of the Environment Committee

From: Eric Fine, Resident of New Haven

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 5363, An Act Establishing a Carbon Price for Fossil Fuels Sold in Connecticut

According to research by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, there is broad support for many of the provisions of this bill both nationally and in Connecticut, as well as across much of the political spectrum. This includes:

- Nearly eight out of ten registered voters in the U.S. (78%) support taxing global warming pollution, regulating it, or using both approaches, while only one in ten opposes these approaches.<sup>1</sup>
- Americans are willing to pay on average \$177 more each year on their energy bills for a “tax on fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) to help reduce global warming.”<sup>2</sup>
- Nationally, half of registered voters (51%) think government policies intended to transition away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy will improve economic growth and provide new jobs. An additional one in five (21%) think it will have no impact on the economy or jobs. Only about one in four (27%) think it will reduce economic growth and cost jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- 84% of Connecticut adults support funding research into renewable energy sources.<sup>3</sup>
- 77% of Connecticut adults support regulating CO2 as a pollutant.<sup>3</sup>
- 73% of Connecticut adults support setting strict CO2 limits on existing coal-fired power plants.<sup>3</sup>
- 69% of Connecticut adults support requiring utilities to produce 20% electricity from renewable resources.<sup>3</sup>
- 72% of Connecticut adults think global warming is happening and 61% of Connecticut adults are worried about global warming.<sup>3</sup>
- Most registered voters in the U.S. think the U.S. should use more renewable energy (81%) and less fossil fuel (55%).<sup>1</sup>
- Support for using more renewable energy cuts across party lines (it is supported by 85% of Democrats, 78% of Independents, and 76% of Republicans).<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for considering U.S. and Connecticut public opinion on these issues as you make your decision on HB 5363. As reflected by this data, the vast majority support this bill. I urge you to price carbon in Connecticut.

Sincerely, Eric Fine

Full Disclosure – I am a Project Manager at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

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<sup>1</sup> Politics & Global Warming, Nov. 2016, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

<sup>2</sup> Matthew J Kotchen *et al* 2017 *Environ. Res. Lett.* **12** 094012

<sup>3</sup> Yale Climate Opinion Maps - Connecticut