

RE: Support Raised House Bill 5363

Dear Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Michael Harris, PE. I am a resident of Deep River, Connecticut and a professional engineer.

I support Raised House Bill 5363. It is a positive response in the face of climate disruption. The climate chaos unfolding is real and human caused. Self-reinforcing feedback loops have already been activated. There is no solution, only wise responses. HB 5363 approaches the latter. The consequences of this disruption is already acutely felt throughout our communities, not to mention other places in the world.

Pricing carbon is the most effective and efficient way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions inside of our economic system. It creates incentives for both individual and systemic change.

Given the critical nature of ensuring equitable distribution of finite resources, including debt-based money, the redistribution structure of the bill mitigates the pricing impact that low-income families and businesses. The program returns revenues to those who live and work in Connecticut allowing them to make sound economic decisions based on real market signals.

It would be a more effective bill with a higher initial per-ton cost on carbon pollution. Moreover, the pilot is not aggressive enough. The bill should include a structure for raising the carbon fee annually. The Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition's 2017 Commission on Carbon Pricing, supported by the World Bank, found that to reach Paris Accord targets on international carbon reduction, a price on carbon must be at least \$40/ton by 2020. Please note, Connecticut has signed onto these targets via the United States Climate Alliance.

HB 5363 presents a straightforward system that will address the global issue of climate change without a convoluted regulatory structure. Other New England states, including Rhode Island and Massachusetts, are working on similar endeavors. This is a great opportunity for Connecticut and its neighbors to capitalize on those efforts to further increase our collective impact.

Thank you for your work in starting the conversation on this pressing issue. Please support carbon pricing. Connecticut can position itself as a leader in the global fight against climate change by supporting strong legislation that puts a price on carbon.

Best regards,

Michael Harris, PE

Energy Coordinator

City of Middletown

Deep River, CT 06417