

Dear Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Beverly Propen . I am a resident of Orange, CT.

I am a parent and grandparent. I have a Master Wildlife Conservation License and I am a member of multiple wildlife and environmental organizations. I want to believe in a sustainable planet that all future generations can enjoy. Climate change is wreaking havoc on our country and the world, with more severe storms that occur more often, with higher sea levels and severe temperature extremes. Connecticut's residents, as well as those throughout the world need leadership in combating climate change. Our coastlines are already seeing the effects of rising water which is impacting habitats for nesting shorebirds and migratory birds. The Environment committee has the opportunity to show real leadership for Connecticut in resolving some issues for our climate by instituting a carbon fee. . I support Raised House Bill 5363 because it is a positive step in the fight against climate change. Over 97% of scientists agree that climate change is real and human caused. The consequences of climate change are already felt throughout our communities and will continue to worsen until we take serious action to curb carbon pollution.

HB 5363 is revenue-neutral, which has the potential to yield strong bipartisan support. The redistribution structure of the bill divides the dividends from the carbon fees roughly equally between households and employers, ensuring that low-income families and businesses will not be unduly affected. While some may argue that some of the revenues should be invested in other areas, I urge you to return all dividends only to households and employers. Revenue-neutrality has the most bipartisan appeal, and returning revenues to those who live and work in Connecticut will allow individuals and businesses to make sound economic decisions independently by following predictable market signals.

I want to be able to pass on to my grandchildren a sustainable planet. I thank the Environment Committee for starting the conversation on this pressing issue and urge the Committee to support carbon pricing. Connecticut can become a true leader in New England and our country by adopting a progressive agenda to combat climate change. I truly believe Connecticut can position itself as a leader in the global fight against climate change by supporting strong legislation that puts a price on carbon.

I want a sustainable world that all future generations can enjoy and benefit from.

Respectfully,

Beverly Propen,

Orange, CT