

Dear Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Jeremy Schulick and I live in Wooster Square in New Haven, CT. I wholeheartedly support putting a price on carbon, and this bill has the added benefit of being revenue-neutral so could have strong bipartisan appeal. I also just want to say a few words about some of the scientific projections relating to global warming, as the gravity of the climate crisis is more widely acknowledged, but its urgency is generally not as well perceived.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released their latest [HYPERLINK "https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22070/EGR_2017.pdf"](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22070/EGR_2017.pdf)Emissions Gap Report this past November; here is the main takeaway from the executive summary:

"The overarching conclusions of the report are that there is an urgent need for accelerated short-term action and enhanced longer-term national ambition, if the goals of the Paris Agreement are to remain achievable — and that practical and cost-effective options are available to make this possible.

The successful Paris Agreement has generated and incentivized action at scale by both governments and the private sector. Nevertheless, it marks only a beginning. The Nationally Determined Contributions that form the foundation of the Paris Agreement cover only approximately one third of the emissions reductions needed to be on a least-cost pathway for the goal of staying well below 2°C. The gap between the reductions needed and the national pledges made in Paris is alarmingly high."

The possibility that nations will fail to meet pledged commitments and the United States' announced intention to withdraw from the agreement only exacerbate these already serious shortcomings.

As you are probably aware, the scientific consensus is that warming beyond 2°C [HYPERLINK "https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2458/why-a-half-degree-temperature-rise-is-a-big-deal/"](https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2458/why-a-half-degree-temperature-rise-is-a-big-deal/)could

have catastrophic ramifications. Furthermore, the UNEP Emissions Gap Report states that the path to 2°C necessitates beginning to bend the curve of emissions levels sharply downward by 2020, as is also outlined in the report [HYPERLINK "https://www.nature.com/news/three-years-to-safeguard-our-climate-1.22201"](https://www.nature.com/news/three-years-to-safeguard-our-climate-1.22201) Mission 2020, which was organized by Christiana Figueres, who was essentially the architect of the Paris Agreement. Further, climate scientist Michael Mann, a PhD from Yale and Distinguished Professor of Meteorology at Penn State University, forecasts in [HYPERLINK "https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/earth-will-cross-the-climate-danger-threshold-by-2036/"](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/earth-will-cross-the-climate-danger-threshold-by-2036/) this Scientific American article that if we continue our current, business-as-usual trajectory we will cross the critical 2°C threshold in 2036 -- well within the lifetimes of most people alive today.

Add to this the realities of the [HYPERLINK "https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/201713"](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/201713) drastic increase we have seen in worldwide temperatures over the past five years, the [HYPERLINK "https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/30/global-atmospheric-co2-levels-hit-record-high"](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/30/global-atmospheric-co2-levels-hit-record-high) recently reported all-time high of 403.3ppm of globally averaged CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere (a level not seen for more than three million years), and the climate-intensified storms, floods, wildfires, droughts and heat waves we've witnessed lately, and the urgency to act appears that it could hardly be overstated.

We are now at a crossroads with climate change where trying to win slowly is just another way of losing, especially while we are facing a federal government that is aggressively trying to steer us in the wrong direction. There is an imperative for ambitious local action, and Connecticut stands to set a bold example to its neighboring states. CT has many coastal cities so action on climate change is truly in its own self-interest; in New Haven places such as Union Station, Tweed Airport, and Long Wharf are threatened by sea level rise. As meteorologist Eric Holthaus recently stated, it is “profoundly disheartening to see people pushing for a carbon-free economy as soon as possible being labelled ‘far left.’ That's not a radical position. That's what is required by science for us to survive as a civilization.”

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeremy Schulick

New Haven, CT

