

**Testimony of Tom Swan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)**

**Before the Environment Committee**

**On SB 7 AAC Climate Change Planning and Resiliency**

**HB 5363 AA Establishing a Carbon Price for Fossil Fuels Sold in Connecticut**

**SB 345 AAC Climate Change Education in Connecticut Schools**

**SB 343 AAC The Effects of Climate Change on the Safety plans of Certain Chemical Facilities in the State and Residents of Distressed Communities**

**March 14, 2018**

Representative Demicco, Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner and other members of the Environment Committee my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). I am testifying on behalf of our thousands of member families across the state.

I want to thank you for raising **SB 7 Climate Change Planning and Resiliency** and **HB 5363 AA Establishing a Carbon Price for Fossil Fuels Sold in Connecticut**. We support the interim target of 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 included in SB 7. We believe it is urgent that we move forward on this front, especially in contrast to the lunacy we see emanating from the Trump administration on this front.

We also support incorporating climate change and emissions reductions targets in Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy and integrated Resource Plan. As part of these efforts Connecticut needs to stop subsidizing fossil fuels, especially prospective gas pipelines financed through utility bills.

In closing, we would urge for Connecticut to go even bolder in terms of climate change. We call for a 100% renewable by 2050, significant invests in clean distributive energy production, and a major investment in energy efficiency. This type of a forward-looking program is not only good in terms of addressing the urgency of climate change, but also would create jobs, strengthen our economy and save ratepayers money.

CCAG strongly supports the concept of establishing a carbon fee for fossil fuels as outlined in HB 5363. The fossil fuel industry should not be able to continue to externalize the costs to society related to their use onto consumers and society. By failing to this we are asking consumers and taxpayers to unfairly subsidize their continued destruction of our planet and the poisoning of many communities. We urge as part of your deliberations on this to design any fee in a manner that actually benefits people of limited means and low-income communities. These are the people most often disproportionately impacted by the adverse effects of climate disruption and have often not been able to access the promise of efficiency and clean energy programs.

CCAG also supports **SB 345 AAC Climate Change Education in Connecticut Schools**. My daughter is a first grader at Mary Hooker Environmental Science Magnet School in Connecticut. It is an awesome learning experience and every student could benefit from the hands-on techniques that are offered there. We have an obligation to give our children the tools they will need in the future. With the Koch

Brothers and their allies spending so much to perpetuate lies and having the Trump administration embodying these lies, it is imperative that Connecticut act to make sure our students understand the real science.

Finally. We support **SB 343 AAC The Effects of Climate Change on the Safety plans of Certain Chemical Facilities in the State and Residents of Distressed Communities**. The communities that are disproportionately impacted and the plants that could cause the most harm must be engaged in finding solutions and in developing mitigation strategies on climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.