

Public Hearing- **March 14, 2018**
Environment Committee
Testimony Submitted By Scott E. Thompson, Fairfield, CT

HB-5363 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CARBON PRICE FOR FOSSIL FUELS SOLD IN
CONNECTICUT.

Good Morning Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Miner, Chairman Demicco, Ranking member Harding, Vice Chairs and members. My name is **Scott Thompson and I am the Clean Energy Task Force Chairman for the Town of Fairfield.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB-5363 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CARBON PRICE FOR FOSSIL FUELS SOLD IN CONNECTICUT.

I am strongly in favor of Raised Bill No. 5363 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CARBON PRICE FOR FOSSIL FUELS SOLD IN CONNECTICUT.”

The Case for Action:

The CT economy is stagnant. This policy, along with bold action on clean energy such as virtual net metering, community solar, and direct EV sales, can potentially create an explosion of green jobs and growth in CT over the next 10 years. This policy is so important because it holds the fossil fuel industry accountable for the external costs associated with their unchecked carbon emissions. This bill is about taking action for CT, which is exceptionally vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise, with 62% of our residents in coastal communities. CT along with other New England states can be a leader in this green revolution, which some have coined as the Third Industrial Revolution.

The Beauty of the Carbon Fee and Dividend Model – It’s the “Best Mouse-trap”

The revenue neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend model is recognized by both conservatives and progressives as being the best carbon regulation approach, as compared to revenue positive, cap-and-trade, or cap-and invest. This approach is exceptionally efficient in administrative requirements, and we all know that a small, efficient and effective government is the ideal. This approach prevents reallocation of resources, since dividends go back to households and businesses, not into the State coffers (where funds risk being reallocated to address budget shortfalls). The Carbon Fee and Dividend model is really *fair*: it sends a very simple and clear signal to the market. Lastly, it automatically adjusts and can be easily adjusted further to achieve carbon reduction objectives.

What I Think will Happen After this Legislation Takes Effect

After the initial wakeup call, there will be a big sigh of relief by the fossil fuel industry because of the certainty and hence, stability, created. Businesses (many of them small and locally owned) that can offer efficiency improvements will now have a strong basis to sell and finance their products and services. Businesses that can offer clean energy technologies like solar, wind, and geothermal, will go gangbusters. Electric vehicles will become the hottest wheels around...every household will have at least one. Our air will get cleaner. Our economy will kick into high gear. Our grandchildren’s future will be brighter and more secure because of what you did!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.