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To the honorable Co-chairs and members of the Environment Committee

Regarding: Testimony in support of the **Governor's Bill No. 7, "An Act Concerning Climate Change, Planning, and Resiliency"**

I am writing to support this bill, but have a few comments and observations.

Section 1d feels as if everything that can be thought of has been thrown at a wall in the hopes that something will stick. There's so many categories yet all are worthy. I have inserted some suggestions and thoughts which are in a blue font below.

- "(1) The community development action plan of the municipality, if any, **(Follow "Sustainable CT" as a road map?)**
- (2) the need for affordable housing,
- (3) the need for protection of existing and potential public surface and ground drinking water supplies,
- (4) the use of cluster development and other development patterns to the extent consistent with soil types, terrain and infrastructure capacity within the municipality, **Redirect development back into metropolitan and town centers to reduce encroachment on open space and forests, preserving the soils and island-ecosystems of which there are many in Connecticut**
- (5) the state plan of conservation and development adopted pursuant to chapter 297,
- (6) the regional plan of conservation and development adopted pursuant to section 8-35a,
- (7) physical, social, economic and governmental conditions and trends **Please define?**
- (8) the needs of the municipality including, but not limited to, human resources, education, health, housing, recreation, social services, public utilities, public protection, **public** transportation and circulation and cultural and interpersonal communications,
- (9) the objectives of energy-efficient patterns of development, **restore existing town and city center communities by establishing vehicle free zones through either traffic redirection on existing infrastructure or moving infrastructure under or around these centers (Boston's big dig). Vibrant city and town centers areas are more energy efficient; this would reduce buildout pressures into fragile Connecticut habitats, by protecting them. The down stream effect would be for example, reduction in the need to construct future leaking gas pipes/pipelines, increase of public transportation in these areas, cleaner air leading to improved public health, less vehicular traffic, more public walking and cycling, and a return to traditional community sensibilities,** the use of solar and other renewable forms of energy and energy conservation, **(This should include research and development)**
- (10) protection and preservation of agriculture **(Under the leadership of NOVA), forests, and shoreline ecosystems**
- (11) [sea level change scenarios published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration in Technical Report OAR CPO-1] the most recent sea level change scenario updated pursuant to subsection (b) of section 25-68o, as amended by this act, and (12) the need for technology infrastructure in the municipality”

(13) establish a raid-free fund which can be immediately used following disasters either natural or anthropogenic.

Connecticut is next to a huge volatile body of water, the Atlantic Ocean. It generates massive weather systems (nor-easters, hurricanes , etc.) and has started to rise, causing shoreline tidal flooding especially during the spring. Marshes, the species that inhabit these are threatened. They provide a buffer and protection against the ocean. Additionally, there should be great concern with a water cooled nuclear plant located feet from this ocean, which we have here.

We have over 800 species of plants, amphibians, birds, animals, reptiles, and insects either threatened, endangered or of special concern that are sliding towards extinction in Connecticut. This diversity we depend on, because they are members of ecosystem communities that filter water, condition soils, clean up detritus, provide food, and protect against pests and diseases. They have joined the legions of organisms and creatures that are marching to extinction as part of the 6th mass extinction. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has put the America ashes on its red list as endangered, because of the Emerald ash borer killing millions of trees, and it is not the only one. Please go to their web-site.

You must move quickly and so I suggest bringing dates and schedules forward by at least 5 years. It is an emergency and the door to act is closing remarkably quickly.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Gale E. Ridge
350 Ct legislative chair