

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in support of Proposed S.B. No. 7, An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning And Resiliency.

I support the provisions in this bill that will strengthen Connecticut's commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, through planning for sea level rise in coastal communities and planning for local resilience and integrating climate goals into the state's energy planning.

Strengthening the Global Warming Solutions Act

I urge the committee to update the Global Warming Solutions Act with a new target for reducing CT's economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2001 levels by 2030.

Talking points

Connecticut has a long history of bipartisan leadership on climate change, dating back to at least 1990, when the General Assembly passed the first-in-the-nation state law aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions. Gov. Jody Rell signed the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008, mandating an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below 2001 levels by the year 2050. In 2015, Gov. Dan Malloy established the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) to develop a plan for achieving the state's 2050 goal and to set interim targets.

In January 2018, the GC3 reached a unanimous decision to recommend an interim target of a 45% reduction below 2001 levels by 2030.

The GC3's recommendation is based on detailed analysis showing that it will put our state solidly on a path toward the 2050 goal and that a faster transition to a clean energy economy will yield more in-state jobs and economic growth.

Connecticut has already experienced the devastating effects of more severe storms and more frequent flooding, which have strained state and municipal budgets. Acting now to reduce emissions is good for our workers and good for our communities, and it will help protect the climate for our children and grandchildren.

Improved Energy and Resiliency Planning

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I urge the committee to support provisions in this bill that would improve Connecticut's commitment to address the impacts of climate change through coastal resiliency planning and integrated climate and energy planning.

Talking points:

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) has provided updated projections of sea level rise that encourage coastal communities to plan for up to 50 cm of sea level rise by 2050. SB 7 would require state and local planning agencies to consider the most up-to-date sea level rise data. [

Connecticut's energy strategy needs to be aligned with its climate goals. SB 7 would require the state's energy planning to consider the impacts on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions through preparation of a Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy every four years.

SB 7 recognizes that the need for climate change planning will be an ongoing priority and replaces the Governor's Council on Climate Change with a new permanent body: the Connecticut Council on Climate Change.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. Connecticut has an opportunity to reclaim its long history of bipartisan leadership on climate change. I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 7.

Respectfully submitted,

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