

Testimony Before the Committee on Environment

In Support of **S.B. No. 7 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING AND RESILIENCY**

Submitted by **John Humphries**
Organizer, CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
March 14, 2018

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.

The CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs seeks to strengthen collaboration among Connecticut's labor, environmental, and religious groups in advocating for public policies that address urgent concerns about climate change while creating good-paying jobs right here in our state.

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.

I am proud to serve as a member of the GC3, and I strongly supported the GC3's unanimous recommendation of an ambitious interim greenhouse gas emissions reduction for the year 2030.

I support the provisions in this bill that will strengthen Connecticut's commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change by (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; (2) planning for sea level rise in coastal communities; and (3) 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.

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.

The Roundtable has been working with allies across the state to build support for aggressive climate action. Our partners in the northwest corner of Connecticut decided distribute a petition to educate residents and demonstrate widespread support for SB 7. Their petition has now gathered more than 175 endorsements from more than 25 towns in the region. I am submitting it as an attachment to this testimony.

Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy

Since the first draft of the first Comprehensive Energy Strategy was released for public comment in 2012, the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs has persistently advocated for integrating the state's energy strategy with its climate goals.

I strongly support the provisions in SB 7 that would change the "Comprehensive Energy Strategy" to the "Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy." It is essential that that our energy strategy aligns with our climate strategy to ensure that we are building the clean energy future that will create local jobs all across state.

Connecticut Council on Climate Change

Having served for the last three years on the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), I am pleased that SB 7 seeks to create a permanent body called the Connecticut Council on Climate Change, which would continue the work of the GC3.

I would advocate for these changes in the provisions:

1. Section 16: Clarify that the Connecticut Council on Climate Change shall meet not less than twice each calendar year (changed from biannually); and requiring that the Governor appoint at least two representatives from nongovernmental organizations addressing climate change to the Council;
2. Section 29: Change requirement to the biannual report submitted by the Connecticut Council on Climate Change to not only identify existing and proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established by the Governor, but also include activities and programs that are designed to meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements.

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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CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs



Act Now to Grow Green Jobs and Protect the Climate

S.B. 7 - An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning And Resiliency

We, the undersigned residents of northwestern Connecticut, urge our elected state legislators to support legislation that will update the Global Warming Solutions Act with an ambitious statewide emissions reduction target of 45% below 2001 levels by the year 2030.

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.

Connecticut has an opportunity to reclaim its long history of bipartisan leadership on climate change. We urge you to support Senate Bill #7, which amends the Global Warming Solutions Act to include the new interim target for 2030.

(This petition was organized by the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, which seeks to strengthen collaboration among Connecticut’s labor, environmental, and religious groups in advocating for public policies that address urgent concerns about climate change while creating good-paying jobs right here in our state. More info: www.CTClimateandJobs.org)

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*The following people have endorsed this statement **as individuals** and NOT on behalf of or representing any organization or institution.*

NAME	TOWN	AFFILIATION (for identification purposes ONLY)
Dean Birdsall	Bantam	
Jeffrey Corning	Bantam	
Pamela Corning	Bantam	
Carol Moore	Bantam	
John Post	Bantam	
Joan Spear	Bantam	
Jane Pittari	Bethlehem	
Cynthia Rabinowitz	Bethlehem	

NAME	TOWN	AFFILIATION (for identification purposes ONLY)
Marcia Wilkins	Brookfield	
Mary Ann Labadia	Burlington	
Janet Couch	Canaan	
Mary Winslow	Canaan	
David Blitz	Colebrook	
Roberta Lawton	Colebrook	Democracy Awakens
Nathaniel Flagg	Cornwall	
Katherine Freygang	Cornwall	Cornwall Energy Task Force
Phyllis Nauts	Cornwall	
Marjorie Morris	Goshen	
Judi Armstrong	Goshen	
Cynthia Barrett	Goshen	
Rosemary Bonaguide	Goshen	
Leslie Contadini	Goshen	
Elizabeth Cosgrove	Goshen	Goshen Garden Club
Kathleen Danielczuk	Goshen	
Ginny Davidson	Goshen	
Leya Edison	Goshen	
Catherine Felten	Goshen	
Joyce Fish	Goshen	
Evelyn Herman	Goshen	
Janet Hooper	Goshen	
Jack Kelley	Goshen	
Johanna Kimball	Goshen	
Ruth Kirkwood	Goshen	
Sara Krhla	Goshen	
Darlene Krukar	Goshen	
Darcy Manchak	Goshen	
Kerwin Mayers	Goshen	
Brigitte Michaud	Goshen	
James Michaud	Goshen	
Marjorie Morris	Goshen	
Nancy Noell	Goshen	
Barbara Pappalardo	Goshen	
Shirley Pedone	Goshen	
Dolores Raimo	Goshen	
Susanna Shirlock	Goshen	
Laura Stancs	Goshen	
Michele Veseskis	Goshen	
John Vollmer	Goshen	
Sunny Torres	Harwinton	
Barbara Bettigole	Lakeville	
Joanne Hayhurst	Lakeville	
Jo Loi	Lakeville	
Roberta Willis	Lakeville	
Todd Anderson	Litchfield	

NAME	TOWN	AFFILIATION (for identification purposes ONLY)
Veronica Anderson	Litchfield	
Charlene Barbacci	Litchfield	
Franco Barbacci	Litchfield	
Cary Beach	Litchfield	
Louise Beach	Litchfield	
Tina Bernacki	Litchfield	
Bob Berson	Litchfield	
Ann Casagrande	Litchfield	
Alison Castor	Litchfield	
Enizete Cofer	Litchfield	
Emmy Coley	Litchfield	
Wendy Costa	Litchfield	
M. Crow	Litchfield	
Michele Crow	Litchfield	
Margaret Dillon	Litchfield	
Patricia Donovan	Litchfield	
Laura Dunn	Litchfield	
Ellen Ebbs	Litchfield	
Ellen Eberle	Litchfield	
Charles Ebersol, Jr.	Litchfield	
Susan Elliott	Litchfield	
Malcolm Forbes	Litchfield	
Daniel Fowler	Litchfield	
Marcia Fowler	Litchfield	
John Fulkerson	Litchfield	
Lynn Fulkerson	Litchfield	
Gerald Geci	Litchfield	
Helen Geci	Litchfield	
Betsy Glassman	Litchfield	
Sister Rosemarie Greco	Litchfield	Daughters of Wisdom
Jonathan Horne	Litchfield	
Christine Horrigan	Litchfield	
Eugene Horrigan	Litchfield	
Lela Ilyinsky	Litchfield	
Susan Kennedy	Litchfield	
Elayne Landau	Litchfield	
Patricia Lapidus	Litchfield	
Thomasina Levy	Litchfield	
Thomasina Levy	Litchfield	
Brian Malarkey	Litchfield	
Darcey Markelon	Litchfield	
John Markelon	Litchfield	
Marie McFadden	Litchfield	
Laurelee McKiernan	Litchfield	
Barbara Mujon Gugnoni	Litchfield	
Joan O'Brien	Litchfield	

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Morgan O'Brien	Litchfield	
Barbara Putnam	Litchfield	
Peggy Ricker	Litchfield	
Patrick Ryan	Litchfield	
Rose Diane Ryan	Litchfield	League of Women Voters
Diana Schuster	Litchfield	
Helen Simko	Litchfield	
Cynthia Swope	Litchfield	
Joshua Szwed	Litchfield	
Frank Vanoni	Litchfield	
Jeff Zullo	Litchfield	
Joyce Briggs	Litchfield	League of Women Voters
Eileen Litwin	Litchfield	
Aida Montiel	Litchfield Connecticut	
Jean Koeppel	Morris	
Emily Van Vlack	New Fairfield	
Lisa Cushman	New Hartford	
Helen Applebaum	New Milford	CT Chapter Sierra Club
Colin Cogle	New Milford	
Cindy Davis	New Milford	Sierra Club
Jackie Marois	New Milford	
Andrea Rush	New Milford	
Jane Rush	New Milford	
Susan Branson	New Preston	
Thomas Tibbatts	New Preston	
Anita Holmes	Norfolk	
June Peterson	Norfolk	
Susannah Wood	Norfolk	
Martha Soliday	Northfield	
Stephen Crouse	Ridgefield	
Maria Horn	Salisbury	
Kathleen Mera	Salisbury	
Kerry Noble	Salisbury	
Jan and Mike Dudek	Sharon	
Lynn Kearcher	Sharon	
Carolyn Mattoon	Sharon	
Pamela Arifian	Sharon	UCC Northeast Environmental Justice Center
Nancy Schaefer	South Kent	
George McCleary	Thomaston	
Laurie Bessette	Torrington	
Brian Corringham	Torrington	
Laura Day	Torrington	
Jonathan Greenbaum	Torrington	
Tara Holmberg	Torrington	NWCD
Lois Keen	Torrington	

NAME	TOWN	AFFILIATION (for identification purposes ONLY)
Sharon Maziarz	Torrington	
Georgia Mazur	Torrington	
Kathryn Meetz	Torrington	
Catherine Angela Mosey	Torrington	
Frances Moulder	Torrington	
Janice Riley	Torrington	
Kathe Skibisky	Torrington	
Lori Brass	Warren	
Ray Furse	Warren	Litchfield Hills Solar
Frank Adams	Washington	
Ted Bent	Washington	Washington Finance Board
Valerie Friedman	Washington	
Joan Kaplan	Washington	Washington Democratic Town Committee
Rebecca Lambert	Washington	
Edwin Matthews	Washington	
Franklin Nichols	Washington	
Susan Payne	Washington	WDTC , WEC, Washington Conservation Commission
Terri Tibbatts	Washington	Washington Environmental Council
Mary Weber	Washington	
Robert Weber	Washington	
Emery Roth II	Washington Depot	
Dominique Torok	Waterbury	
Jill Cutler	West Cornwall	Cornwall Indivisible
Erica Prud'homme	West Cornwall	
Anita Garnett	Winsted	
Leeane Marvin	Winsted	
Sheila Sedlack	Winsted	
Steven Sedlack	Winsted	
Doreen Swensen	Winsted	
Sister Diane Guerette	Wolcott	Daughters of Wisdom