

To Members of the Environment Committee:

As a Commissioner and former Chair of Hartford's Commission on the Environment (ACOTE), and a member of InterFaith Resilience efforts, I write to you to urge your support of SB 7.

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, planning for sea level rise in coastal communities, planning for local resilience, and integrating climate goals into the state's energy plans.

This bill importantly provides the following:

Updates the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 to include the new target for reducing CT's economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2001 levels by 2030; this reflects the recommendation of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) to ensure that the state is on track to achieve the mandated goal of an 80% reduction by 2050.

Prepares Connecticut for the impacts of sea level rise by requiring state and municipal planning to use the most up-to-date projections by the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA).

Requires the state's energy planning to consider impacts on climate and greenhouse gas emissions as part of a Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy.

Creates a permanent Connecticut Council on Climate Change to replace the GC3.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 7 through bipartisan leadership on climate change. The climate belongs to all of us!

Sincerely,

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