

RE: House Bill 5363

Dear Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

My name is Amy Kalafa. I am a resident of Weston, CT.

I've recently earned my MBA in Sustainability, and as someone who has studied the data on climate change extensively, I can assure you that short of nuclear holocaust, there is no greater (and to date unmitigated) threat to the future of the planet, and the future of Connecticut, than the issue of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

As a state that has already taken a leadership position by initiating the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (now raided to support the General Fund) and the first state Green Bank, we must not back down from that leadership; it is time to legislate the pricing of carbon in Connecticut. This issue cannot wait.

Economists have repeatedly stated that pricing carbon is the most effective and efficient way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; it creates incentives for both individual and systemic changes. Over 75% of 1100 economists surveyed by NYU's Institute for Policy Integrity agree that putting a price on carbon is the most economically efficient way to reduce carbon pollution. I thank the Committee for their important work in starting the conversation on this pressing issue and urge the Committee to support carbon pricing.

I truly believe Connecticut can position itself as a leader in the global fight against climate change by supporting strong legislation that puts a price on carbon.

All the best,

Amy Kalafa
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“progress is never permanent, or certain”
- Elizabeth Word Gutting

