



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 14, 2018

Sen. Ted Kennedy
Sen. Craig Miner
Rep. Mike Demicco
Rep. Stephen Harding

Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Testimony from Governor Dannel P. Malloy in support of SB 7: AAC Climate Change Planning and Resiliency

Since 2011, Connecticut's climate and energy policies have aligned under the leadership of the General Assembly and the merged Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Most notably, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions have become a central driver of energy policy. Fairness to future generations of Connecticut residents demands that we adjust our current practices to prevent climate disaster.

With the creation of CIRCA (Connecticut Institute for Resilience Climate Adaptation), a consortium that brings together experts in the natural sciences, engineering, economics, political science, finance, and law, Connecticut is leading the nation in developing the best available scientific analysis to better prepare and adapt to the potential destructive impacts of climate change. Through extensive research and collaboration with local, regional and national partners, CIRCA has projected that Connecticut will experience a sea level rise of approximately two feet by 2050.

In response to the undisputed facts of climate change, SB 7 seeks to prepare Connecticut by updating the current statutory references to sea level rise to reflect CIRCA's projections of approximately two feet by 2050. This proposal also protects Connecticut's investments by requiring all future state projects located in the Coastal Boundary that are either undertaken by a state agency or funded by a state/federal grant or loan to meet CIRCA's projections by adjusting up an additional two feet above base flood. To help municipalities better prepare for the reality of climate change and protect our residents' property, this proposal updates Connecticut coastal boundary maps to reflect the landward distance represented by the approximate two feet in sea level rise.

In addition to addressing sea level rise, SB 7 establishes an interim and very significant 45% target reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. This interim target will ensure Connecticut remains on a path to achieve an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as mandated under the Global Warming Solutions Act. Preparing for climate change also means that we must address our

fuel mix and integrate new cleaner resources into our energy grid – in this case preparation also means prevention.

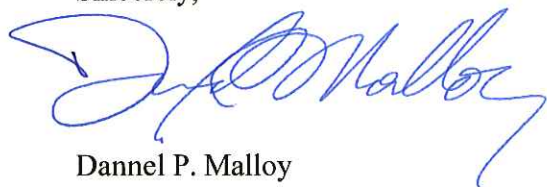
Finally, to integrate greenhouse gas reduction strategies into our state's energy planning, SB 7 establishes a statutory link between energy and climate change policymaking. It codifies the Governor's Council on Climate Change as the Connecticut Council on Climate Change and requires a four-year planning cycle for the renamed, Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy.

Planning for the impacts of climate change is only the first step. To be a better caretaker of our environment, Connecticut must continue to take bold action in the development and deployment of affordable, clean energy. To maintain our commitment and make Connecticut a national leader in green energy again, I encourage everyone on this committee to vote favorably on SB 9: AAC Connecticut's Energy Future, the companion to SB 7.

While our temperatures and sea levels rise, and the polar ice caps melt, Connecticut cannot and will not sit back and wait for a federal solution. Now is the time to ensure that sound, science-based policymaking will drive Connecticut forward. Together we can strengthen our climate, energy, and coastal and flood management statutes and foster safe planning, prudent investment, accurate mapping and safety for our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I look forward to working with you to create a new comprehensive resiliency plan that gives Connecticut towns the tools they need to protect residents up and down our beautiful shoreline, and provides our citizens with the peace of mind that Connecticut is mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor