

Testimony Before the Committee on Environment

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

Submitted by Sarah Strong
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.

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

In January 2018, the Governor's Council on Climate Change reached a unanimous decision to recommend an interim target of a 45% reduction below 2001 levels by 2030. 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 mitigate the worst climate effects suffered by our children and grandchildren. **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.** 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.

Improved Energy and Resiliency Planning

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. **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.** To do otherwise is to stick our heads in the sand, a sand that grows in greater danger of flooding with each passing day.

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 SB 7.

Respectfully submitted,

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