

Testimony Before the Committee on Environment
In Support of
**S.B. No. 7 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING
AND RESILIENCY**

Submitted by Sarah Ganong on March 13, 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 that will strengthen Connecticut's commitment to addressing 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

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. As a millennial, one of the main draws for our state is the beautiful natural environment, from beaches of Long Island Sound to rivers traversing the state to stunning forests and trails.

Connecticut has a long and proud history of bipartisan leadership on climate change and I remain hopeful that it can continue in this legislative session with your committee's support of S.B. 7. In 1990, the General Assembly passed the first-in-the-nation law aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Then, in January, the Governor's Council on Climate Change just reached the unanimous decision to recommend interim greenhouse gas emission target reductions of 45% below 2001 levels by 2030. The detailed analysis that led to this decision puts our state solidly on a path towards a 2050 reduction goal. This speedy transition to a clean energy will lead towards more in-state jobs in the rapidly-growing clean energy economy.

Improved Energy and Resiliency Planning

I also 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. Our energy strategy needs to be aligned with our climate goals. Senate Bill 7 would require the state's energy planning to consider the impacts on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions through preparation of a Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy every four years, at a benefit to Connecticut residents and future generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. **Connecticut has a chance to reclaim its long history of bipartisan leadership on climate change. I urge you to support SB No. 7.**

Respectfully submitted,
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