

Dear Members of The Environment Committee:

As a resident of the coastal part of Connecticut, I witness the effects of a changing climate every day, not just in times of severe weather. Tidal ranges have changed dramatically over the past three to four decades, bringing changes to our shoreline, especially to beaches and tidal marshes. The negative impact of these changes threaten coastal infrastructure, homes, communities, landforms and natural resources such as fish and shellfish.

I am submitting this testimony in support of Proposed S.B. No. 7 as it will strengthen our commitment, as citizens of Connecticut, to addressing these and other impacts of climate change. We must dedicate ourselves to increasing resiliency in the face of rising sea levels in all our coastal communities by updating and upgrading our energy planning statewide. Climate change must be integrated into every aspect of State Planning, including transportation, housing, agriculture, forestry and open space preservation.

Connecticut has been a leader in Climate Change, dating back to the 1990's, with support from both sides of the political spectrum. But this should not be a political issue as it affects every one of us as well as future generations of citizens. I urge the committee to update the Global Warming Solutions Act with a new target for reducing CT's greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2001 levels by 2030. Attaining these new targets would boost our economy by enhancing local employment in clean energy industries and local agriculture and forestry.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important bill. My family has lived on this beautiful coast for eleven generations, with each borrowing the land from the next. I, for one, would like to think that another seven generations could continue.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Sent from my iPad