



Public Hearing – March 14, 2018  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

**SB 345 — AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding SB 345.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) supports the inclusion of climate change in the long list of topics required to be included in public k-12 instruction under Connecticut statute.

As noted in DEEP's testimony in support of SB 7, *AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING AND RESILIENCY*, all of us should feel an obligation to future generations to take action to address the very real threat of climate change.

Climate literacy and a public understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change — both global and local — are key to societal and individual preparedness. As one of the greatest challenges of our time, and one that will have ever greater impacts on future generations, basic climate education equips our children with the understanding necessary to prepare for the future.

Climate education is also a subject area that enriches scientific understanding and curiosity. SB 345 calls for such instruction to be consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards, which were adopted by unanimous vote of the Connecticut State Board of Education, are designed as a foundation around which educators create customized learning experiences designed to spark children's interest in science.

SB 345 would require DEEP be available to boards of education to assist in the integration of climate education in the curriculum. DEEP is already engaged in this work via its CT Climate Change website and various science and environmental education initiatives. The requirements of SB 345 could easily be integrated into this work.

If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Lee Sawyer at 860.424.3332 or [Lee.Sawyer@ct.gov](mailto:Lee.Sawyer@ct.gov).