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Joel N. Gordes
38 Brookmoor Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 561-0566

Statement in Support of Mandatory Study of Climate Change in Connecticut Schools

Honorable Chairs McCrory and Sanchez and Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Joel Gordes. As former Vice-Chair of this legislature's then-Energy & Technology Committee in 1990, I was one of five legislators, encompassing members of both political parties, to draft and pass the state's first climate change legislation (PA 90-219).

It is my understanding that you are already hearing testimony on three curriculum reform bills which would: add the teaching of African American Studies (HB7082), the teaching of Latino Studies (HB 7083) and the teaching of Computer Literacy (SB 957). Today, I am requesting that you also consider Representative Palm's Proposed Bill 5011 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEACHING OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. It states:

"That section 10-16b of the general statutes be amended to require that the science curriculum of the prescribed courses of study for public schools include the teaching of climate change and that such teaching begin in elementary school."

It is also my understanding it has not been raised but that there is still the opportunity to add its simple language to each, if not all, of the bills already mentioned.

While most of you may see it as a purely environmental issue or education issue, as a former professional military officer, let me assure you climate change goes far beyond that as the most existential issue most school-aged citizens may have to face. It has serious implications, including impacts on our national security and the health and safety of our citizens. For any of you who may be further interested in that topic, please see <http://www.energysecuritysol.com/environmental-security> and then, pass this bill.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Best Regards,



Joel Gordes
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 561-0566
Energy & Environmental Security Strategist [Retired]
www.energysecuritysol.com