

**Written testimony of Susan Eastwood
CGA Energy and Technology Committee
February 27, 2020**

In support of RB 177, RB 178, RB 179, RB 5226, RB 5228

Dear Energy & Technology Committee Chairs Needleman and Arconti, Vice-Chairs Lesser and Allie-Brennan, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and distinguished members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of several raised bills before the Committee. These bills all contribute to Connecticut's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect our environment and the health of our citizens. These efforts will help Connecticut to meet the mandate of the state's Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). The GWSA requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 45% below 2001 level by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

HB 5228 An Act Concerning the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program & HB 5226 An Act Concerning Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - SUPPORT

Transportation is now the largest source of GHG in Connecticut, accounting for 43% of GHG emissions, most of this coming from non-diesel light vehicles, in other words, our cars! Each year, American passenger cars and trucks, through vehicle tailpipe and oil extraction and transport emissions, spew upwards of three trillion tons of carbon pollution into the air by burning about 121 billion gallons of gasoline. In Connecticut, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have risen since 2012, mostly in the transportation sector, likely due to lower gas prices, increased driving and increased popularity of inefficient vehicles (e.g., SUVs). A switch to plug-in electric vehicles (EVs), which require no gasoline and emit no tailpipe pollution, presents a critical opportunity to slash pollution, create American jobs, reduce oil dependence, and benefit our state economy.

Sales of electric cars are growing every year, but we need more EV-friendly policies to encourage a faster transition to an electrified transportation system. I have owned a fully electric vehicle for a year and can attest to the benefits and savings. But charging can be a problem, and charging from your residence is by far the most practical and convenient way to drive electric. We added a level 2 charger to our garage to make charging faster and convenient. However, many Connecticut residents, apartment dwellers and renters, cannot make these kinds of modifications. We need to act to remove barriers like this and add more charging infrastructure around the state as well, to make adoption of EVs more attractive.

Connecticut must adopt policies to support the transition to electric vehicles, such as HB 5228, and policies that remove barriers to the installation of electric vehicle charging

stations, like HB 5226. Without these and additional efforts, we will not meet the projected need for 500,000 light-duty electric vehicles in Connecticut essential to meet our 2030 emission reduction goal.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SB 177 An Act Concerning Energy Consumption Data and Labeling - SUPPORT

This bill will ensure greater transparency on the energy consumption of a property and will allow buyers to make informed decisions on future energy costs of a potential purchase. Hopefully, this will encourage property owners to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency measures.

SB 178 An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Standards – SUPPORT

This bill updates and expands the state’s appliance and equipment energy and water efficiency standards to include a number of new products. Establishing energy efficiency standards for these commonly used household and commercial products will ensure that consumers can reduce their energy and water consumption easily, saving them money while helping Connecticut to reduce greenhouse gases as required by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

SB 179, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK – SUPPORT

As Chair of the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force and long-time member of the CT Energy network, my colleagues and I have worked with the Green Bank for many years as Clean Energy Communities and I offer my strong support for their programs which allow affordable investment in renewable energy and encourage energy efficiency.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing work on these important issues.

Sincerely,

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