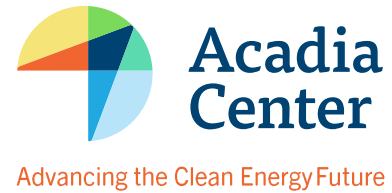


Testimony of Amy McLean

Connecticut Director and Senior Policy Advocate

Public Hearing, March 5, 2020



Before the Energy and Technology Committee

Honorable Chairpersons Arconti and Needleman, Vice Chairpersons Fonfara and Allie- Brennan, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro and Committee Members:

Acadia Center appreciates this opportunity to provide written testimony to the Energy and Technology Committee regarding the bills referenced below. Acadia Center is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization committed to advancing the clean energy future. Acadia Center is at the forefront of efforts to build clean, low carbon, and consumer friendly economies.

1. SB 10- An act concerning certain recommendations regarding Climate Change

Position: Acadia Center supports SB provisions to decarbonize the electric sector by 2040

- Acadia Center supports among other directives, the requirement that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to recommend strategies to reach zero carbon from the electric sector by 2040. This path to a decarbonized electric sector combined with plans to reduce emissions from the transportation and building sectors, is necessary to meet economy-wide emissions goals.

2. H.B 5351- An act concerning certain programs and to incentivize and Implement Electric Energy Storage resources

Position: Acadia Center supports the establishing a 1 gigawatt by 2030 energy storage deployment target

- Acadia Center supports the 1 GW goal for storage by 2030 and the requirement to develop a residential storage incentive . Energy storage technology is a significant opportunity to build a more resilient dynamic and cost effective electricity system. Storage when paired with renewable resources like solar and wind can transform intermittent renewables into dispatchable power.

3. H.B 5348- An Act Concerning the Study of Community Choice Aggregation

Position: Acadia Center supports the study of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

- Acadia Center notes that the study completion date should be before the 2021 CGA session and not by July 1, 2021
- Stakeholders such as municipalities, environmental groups, CCA experts, social justice and equity groups, and others should have a significant role in the study process.
- CCA for Connecticut has been endorsed by a close to 20 organizations committed to environmental action and consumer protection (Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, PACE, Acadia Center, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, Operation Fuel, Clean Water Action, Eastern Connecticut Green Action, Consumers for Sensible Energy, Efficiency for All, Solar Connecticut, Sunrise Connecticut, CT Energy Network, and others).
- Four municipalities — Middletown, Mansfield, Simsbury, and New Haven — have passed resolutions in support of the concept, and several other towns are considering such resolutions. More organizations and towns in Connecticut are seeing the benefit of having local control over electricity in the context of environmental concerns and affordability

4. H.B 5350- An Act Concerning Natural Gas

Position: Acadia Center supports an act concerning natural gas

- H.B. 5350, An Act Concerning Natural Gas will stop the gas companies from using the pipeline tax to make Connecticut residents foot the bill for new fossil fuel expansion, and bring more, affordable renewable energy into the system. In addition, it protects the wages of workers replacing gas infrastructure, and will keep rates under control.
- Connecticut stands at a critical energy crossroads. We can continue down the path of fossil fuel or we can turn onto a new path of clean, renewable energy including wind and solar power. Support H.B. 5350, An Act Concerning Natural Gas to repeal the pipeline tax, and put our state on the right path to face the future.

For more information:

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