

Dear Chair Needleman and Chair Arconti, Vice Chair Winfield and Allie-Brennan, Ranking Member Formica and Ferraro, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

My name is Chris Birch, and I am a Wilton, CT resident and an undergraduate student at the University of Chicago studying environmentally helpful chemical conversion of carbon dioxide to fuels. I am writing to urge members of the committee to support and amend **[SB-882: An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability](#)**. This bill would reaffirm Connecticut's commitment to addressing climate change by partially codifying Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 3](#) into state law. However, this bill as currently written fails to live up to the 2040 net-zero electricity sector target that [the governor has championed](#); furthermore, it does not align Connecticut with the [UN's 2050 net zero emissions target](#), and it leaves open the possibility that CT will continue to rely on fossil fuels well into the future. As a result, this bill must be amended to include provisions which will ensure that Connecticut will do its part to aggressively combat climate change.

Necessary amendments to the bill are as follows: require all electricity supplied and generated within the entire state to be 100% zero-carbon by 2040, require a 2050 net zero carbon dioxide equivalent emissions target, require a [moratorium](#) on the construction of new fossil fuel power plants statewide, and ensure that the DEEP commissioner cannot alter emission reduction targets or determine CT's emission levels in a manner that is inconsistent with scientific data. People are actively dying and suffering as a lack of enforced climate change policy and action. We must divest as a society from economic options that hinge on heavy carbon emission processes and invest instead into renewable energy processes. Natural gas cannot be an intermediate step in this process - we must look to more sustainable processes that do not rely on combustion.

As a college student, it is deeply unfortunate that the generations of today and tomorrow are at risk of being denied the opportunities that most of those in power have enjoyed their entire lives. Even more unfortunate are [the millions of annual deaths](#) caused by fossil fuels, as well as global warming's disproportionate impact on [low-income individuals](#) and [people of color](#). The time for a sustainable and equitable society is now, and Connecticut must lead the country in completing this necessary transition.

For these reasons, I ask for the Energy and Technology Committee to amend SB-882 to include the changes I have requested and to subsequently pass it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Chris Birch  
Wilton, CT

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