



Testimony of John D. Blair, Associate Counsel
Connecticut Business and Industry Association
Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 4, 2021

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro, members of the Energy and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. My name is John Blair, Associate Counsel at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of our member companies are small businesses, with less than 100 employees.

CBIA submits the following testimony addressing some concerns with [SB 882](#) '**An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability**'

Section 1 and 2 of this bill proposes to reduce the level of emissions of greenhouse gas for electricity supplied to electric customers to zero percent by January 1, 2040. The language does promote energy efficiency goals and carbon reduction goals consistent with Connecticut's efforts to be a leader in reducing energy use and fighting climate change.

However, CBIA recommends the zero greenhouse gas goal of January 1, 2040 should be changed to goal rather than mandate. We also believe that it would be advisable to add more specificity to the greenhouse gas reduction goals by sectors, for example, goals for energy and transportation sectors specifically spelled out.

SB 882 leaves some questions unanswered as to how we achieve such a mandate. The proposal does not appear to contemplate greenhouse gases associated with the generation of electricity to power electric vehicles. The bill does not appear to take into account the emittance of greenhouse gas in the manufacturing of electric vehicles or the disposal of their batteries.

The bill does not outline how this mandate would be enforced. It would be beneficial to know what ultimately will occur if the State can not achieve this mandate.

Section 3 and 4 of the proposed legislation requires home energy labels used to help purchasers of residential property and tenants of rental properties make informed decisions regarding their premises. CBIA is not taking a position on these sections, but supports the recovery of costs incurred in providing energy consumption data mandated by this legislation.

For the reasons stated above, CBIA respectfully requests the committee clarify and amend SB 882 before voting on this proposal. I thank you for your consideration of my testimony.