

**Via Electronic Mail**

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Norm Needleman  
Chair, Energy & Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable David Arconti  
Chair, Energy & Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4034  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: NECEC Written Testimony on SB882, An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability**

Dear Chair Needleman and Chair Arconti,

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (“NECEC”) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB882, An Act Concerning Climate Changes Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability. NECEC supports this legislation, because it would establish a clear path to greenhouse gas reductions that align with current science while allowing the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) to procure energy efficiency and demand response resources.

NECEC is a clean energy business, policy, and innovation organization whose mission is to create a world-class clean energy hub in the Northeast, delivering global impact with economic, energy and environmental solutions. NECEC is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. NECEC members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and “smart” technologies.

Governor Lamont signed Executive Order Number 3 on September 3, 2019, which, among other directives, required DEEP to analyze pathways and recommend strategies to reach zero carbon from the electric sector by 2040. Enshrining this commitment into law will set the state on a path to a decarbonized electric sector, which, combined with plans to reduce emissions from the transportation and building sectors, is necessary to meet economy-wide emissions reduction goals.

To meet the dual challenges of mitigating climate change and harnessing the economic development opportunities of the clean energy economy, Connecticut must establish (and refine) a framework of ambitious targets that signal to the market an unwavering and long-term

commitment to a low carbon future. Within this framework, it is necessary to flesh out specific policies and programs that drive deployment of clean energy technologies. SB882 represents a critical step in establishing the big picture framework by establishing a zero-carbon electricity target in the context of an overall GHG emissions reduction strategy.

In addition, the Governor's proposed legislation would authorize the procurement of a significant amount of energy efficiency and demand response, two critical strategies for reducing electricity demand. Lowering demand for electricity, which not only has the ability to save customers money, also has the potential to lower the overall electricity demand, making the 2040 zero carbon target even more achievable and cost-effective. As the Committee considers this bill, we urge you to take care to ensure that the new procurement programs complement, and do not inadvertently hinder, existing efficiency and demand response efforts.

NECEC thanks the Committee for its consideration of SB882, and we urge the Committee to advance this bill expeditiously. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



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