

March 3, 2021

Dear Joint Committee on Energy and Technology,

I write in support of Governor's Bill 882, An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability, pending four necessary amendments to Section 1.

As a Wesleyan student, I am spending four years in Connecticut, and have already come to care deeply for the state and for the community. I want to do everything I can to mitigate the destruction that carbon emissions cause to our state. Reaching carbon neutrality by 2040 is crucial, and we must also stop creating new fossil fuel infrastructure.

I am a member of the Sunrise Movement, a nationwide climate action group of young people. I participate in this organization because our lives and livelihoods are at stake, and environmental issues aren't being treated like the existential threat they truly are. This bill aligns with our belief that the climate crisis is an urgent matter that must be swiftly solved. Lives are at stake if we try to go on with business as usual.

### **Section 1: Greenhouse Gas Reduction**

I am pleased to see that this bill codifies into statute Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3 to achieve a 100% zero-carbon electric grid by 2040 and that it offers an aggressive path to decarbonization. I have several concerns with provisions of this section, as outlined below.

1. 1.a.3: As written, this bill requires that only electricity *supplied* to electricity customers in the state achieve 100% zero-carbon electricity. To mitigate climate change, **this bill must require all electricity supply and generation within the entire state to be 100% zero-carbon by 2040.** By only covering the electricity supplied to electricity customers, Connecticut could technically achieve the 100% goal in 2040 while still having 54 fossil fuel power plants running in the state, a case that is unacceptable for a state taking climate change seriously.
2. 1.a.4: I support the decarbonization plan targets outlined in 1.a.1 and 1.a.2, but believe there needs to be a more aggressive timeline and a more stringent end goal. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a program of the United Nations, to achieve a global target of 1.5°C of global warming, the planet must decrease net CO<sub>2e</sub> (carbon dioxide equivalent) emissions 45% by 2030, "reaching net zero around 2050" ([ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15\\_Headline\\_statements.pdf](https://ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Headline_statements.pdf)). Therefore, reaching only an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as established in 1.a.4, is insufficient to halt the worst effects of global climate change. The state must **set a target of net zero carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050** to protect our health, land, air, water, and future. This target is possible through deep decarbonization and procurement of carbon offsets, which could be generated within our state for additional economic development benefits.
3. SB 718: I urge you to **amend this bill to include a moratorium on the construction of new fossil fuel power plants statewide** (currently a separate

bill, SB 718). Connecticut already has more than its fair share of power generation facilities in Connecticut. This number has the potential to grow if the Killingly power plant and new gas turbines at the NRG Middletown plant move forward. These plants will set Connecticut back further with climate change mitigation and add to the pollution already affecting our state. Connecticut already has excess power and should only be looking toward renewable energy.

4. 1.a.4: The provision to give the DEEP Commissioner sole authority to set greenhouse gas reduction and electricity supply and generation targets holds potential for abuse. This subsection should be amended to **clarify with more specificity what powers the DEEP Commissioner shall have and what checks and balances will be in place** to ensure that a current or future commissioner does not arbitrarily change targets without sufficient public input.

In closing, I urge you to support Governor's Bill 882 after amending Section 1 to

1. Require all supply AND generation to be 100% zero-carbon by 2040,
2. Develop a more aggressive final target for greenhouse gas emissions reduction of net zero by 2050,
3. Establish a moratorium on new fossil fuel plants, and
4. Clarify DEEP Commissioner oversight role, including checks and balances.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

Chloe Johnson  
Middletown, CT