

March 3, 2021

Re: Senate Bill 882 An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability

Dear Chairmen Senator Needleman and Representative Arconti, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

As a resident of Mystic, I write in support of Governor's Bill 882 but I urge a strengthening amendment related to a provision in (a)(3).

I am heartened to see that this bill codifies into statute Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 3 goal to achieve "...a 100% zero-carbon target for the electric sector by 2040." However, Senate Bill 882 departs from Executive Order No. 3 in one crucial aspect: the bill specifies only limits on carbon emissions from "electricity supplied to electric customers in the state." Since some of the electricity produced in Connecticut is exported to other states, the bill effectively could allow Connecticut to increase electric sector CO2 emissions from fossil fuel power plants as long as Connecticut exports the electricity to other states.

In recognition of the need to address climate-destroying greenhouse gasses, the General Assembly passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) mandating a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions below 2001 levels by 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. The time is now for Connecticut to focus on critically needed strategies to meet the decarbonization requirements of the GWSA.

I urge amending the bill to include specific language that requires state agency compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), and provides for citizen enforcement of the GWSA pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act.

Further, with the objective of achieving the Governor's 2040 goal of carbon-free electricity, "electricity" should be inclusive of electricity generated in the state and/or supplied to electric customers in the state: and Connecticut also should codify a restriction on any new fossil fuel power plants.

This is a defining moment of opportunity for the Energy and Technology Committee and the General Assembly to assert its critical role in mitigating green house gas emissions in the state. SB 882 must be strengthened to enable meaningful mitigation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Kris E. Kuhn

104 Irving Street

Mystic, Connecticut

