



Legislative Testimony

March 4, 2021

Middletown, CT 06459

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Eli Roche, Co-Chair
Written Testimony Regarding SB-882,
An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy
Affordability

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

My name is Eli Roche, and I am a student at Wesleyan University. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Wesleyan Democrats in support of [Senate Bill 882](#).

Wesleyan Democrats (WesDems) believe in the facts: global warming is real, it is caused by human activity, and there is [overwhelming scientific consensus](#) in support of these facts.¹ We applaud the governor for continuing to push CT to combat climate change; nonetheless, this bill falls short of what CT must do.

We strongly urge the committee to amend SB-882 to align CT with the UN's 2050 net zero emissions target, in addition to other vital suggested provisions.

Other necessary changes include the following: require net zero emissions from electricity generated in CT by 2040;² require net zero from electricity distributed to consumers in CT by 2040; move the current 80% emissions reduction target from 2050 to 2040; ensure that the DEEP commissioner cannot alter the set emission reduction requirements or produce a determination of emission levels that is inconsistent with scientific data measuring CT's greenhouse gas emission levels.

[Millions of people die per year](#) due to fossil fuel emissions;³ we are seeing a [worst-case scenario](#) melting of global ice.⁴ CT – which is warming faster than the global average⁵ – must enact aggressive legislative climate policies, including the [UN backed](#) 2050 net zero emissions target.⁶ Multiple viable pathways for achieving net zero exist.⁷ Ultimately, we are only asking that Connecticut do what is necessary to avoid being an active contributor to a pending climate catastrophe. Thank you.

¹ Jonathan Watts, “‘No Doubt Left’ about Scientific Consensus on Global Warming, Say Experts,” *The Guardian*, July 24, 2019, <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/jul/24/scientific-consensus-on-humans-causing-global-warming-passes-99>.

² J.-F. Mercure et al., “Macroeconomic Impact of Stranded Fossil Fuel Assets,” *Nature Climate Change* 8, no. 7 (July 2018): 588–93, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-018-0182-1>; Gavin Bade, “Indiana Regulators Reject Vectren Gas Plant over Stranded Asset Concerns,” *Utility Dive*, April 25, 2019, <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/indiana-regulators-reject-vectren-gas-plant-over-stranded-asset-concerns/553456/>; “Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction)” (Concerned Health Professionals of New York, & Physicians for Social Responsibility, December 2020), <https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/fracking-science-compendium-7.pdf>.

³ Eric Roston, “Fossil Fuel Pollution Kills 8.7 Million a Year, Twice Previous Estimate,” *Bloomberg News*, February 9, 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-09/fossil-fuel-pollution-kills-millions-more-than-scientists-knew>.

⁴ Laura Millan Lombrana, “Global Ice Melt Matches Worst-Case Climate Scenario, Study Says,” *Bloomberg News*, January 25, 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-25/climate-change-is-melting-ice-in-every-continent-new-study-shows>.

⁵ Raymond Bradley and Karmalkar Ambarish, “How Will Global Warming of 2 Degrees Celsius Affect Connecticut?” (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Amherst, April 20, 2016), https://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/stateClimateReports/CT_ClimateReport_CSRC.pdf; Michael Greenwood, “New YSPH Report Raises Concerns About Climate Change and Health in Connecticut,” Yale School of Medicine, September 15, 2020, <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/27353/>.

⁶ Kevin Keane, “UN Launches Push for Net-Zero Emissions by 2050,” *BBC News*, June 5, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52939325>.

⁷ Carly Britton, “Stanford Study Charts Path to Green New Deal in 143 Countries,” Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, December 20, 2019, <https://woods.stanford.edu/news/stanford-study-charts-path-green-new-deal-143-countries>; Molly Seltzer, “Big but Affordable Effort Needed for America to Reach Net-Zero Emissions by 2050, Princeton Study Shows,” Princeton Environmental Research, December 15, 2020, <https://environmenthalfcentury.princeton.edu/research/2020/big-affordable-effort-needed-america-reach-net-zero-emissions-2050-princeton-study>; Julie Chao, “Getting to Net Zero – and Even Net Negative – Is Surprisingly Feasible, and Affordable,” Berkeley Lab, January 27, 2021, <https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2021/01/27/getting-to-net-zero-and-even-net-negative-is-surprisingly-feasible-and-affordable/>; “New Report Charts Path to Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050, Recommends Near-Term Policies to Ensure Fair and Equitable Economic Transition and Revitalization of Manufacturing Industry,” The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, February 2, 2021, <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2021/02/new-report-charts-path-to-net-zero-carbon-emissions-by-2050-recommends-near-term-policies-to-ensure-fair-and-equitable-economic-transition-and-revitalization-of-manufacturing-industry>.