

## Testimony in Support with Changes of SB-882

Dear Chair Needleman and Chair Arconti, Vice Chair Winfield and Allie-Brennan, Ranking Member Formica and Ferraro, and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

My name is Reed Schwartz, and I am a Middletown resident and Policy Director for the Wesleyan Democrats. I am writing to urge members of the committee to support and amend **[SB-882: An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability](#)**. This bill would reaffirm Connecticut's commitment to addressing climate change by partially codifying Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 3](#) into state law. However, this bill as currently written fails to live up to the 2040 net-zero electricity sector target that [the governor has championed](#); furthermore, it does not align Connecticut with the [UN's 2050 net zero emissions target](#), and it leaves open the possibility that CT will continue to rely on fossil fuels well into the future. As a result, this bill must be amended to include provisions which will ensure that Connecticut will do its part to aggressively combat climate change.

Necessary amendments to the bill are as follows: require all electricity supplied and generated within the entire state to be 100% zero-carbon by 2040, require a 2050 net zero carbon dioxide equivalent emissions target, require a [moratorium](#) on the construction of new fossil fuel power plants statewide, and ensure that the DEEP commissioner cannot alter emission reduction targets or determine CT's emission levels in a manner that is inconsistent with scientific data.

In addition to addressing carbon emissions, climate action should also actively pursue a massive reduction in particulate matter, one of the deadliest and least covered killers of the 21st century.<sup>1</sup> Millions of people die yearly due to these emissions, released primarily from coal-fired power plants, as well as from car (internal combustion as well as electric) tires and brakes in urban areas.<sup>2</sup> Stricter environmental regulations are not dealing with tomorrow's extreme weather and rising sea levels; they will save lives today.

As a college student, it is deeply unfortunate that the generations of today and tomorrow are at risk of being denied the opportunities that most of those in power have enjoyed their entire lives. Even more unfortunate are [the millions of annual deaths](#) caused by fossil fuels, as well as global warming's disproportionate impact on [low-income individuals](#) and [people of color](#). The time for a sustainable and equitable society is now, and Connecticut must lead the country in completing this necessary transition.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fossil-fuel-air-pollution-emissions-1-in-5-deaths-worldwide-each-year/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm>

For these reasons, I ask for the Energy and Technology Committee to amend SB-882 to include the changes requested and to subsequently pass it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Reed Schwartz, Wesleyan Democrats

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