

Testimony of Tom Swan

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Before the Energy and Technology Committee on

S.B. 882 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY

H.B. 6526 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS

H.B. 6527 AN ACT INCREASING THE TOTAL OUTPUT OF CLASS III SOURCES

March 4, 2021

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti and other members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Tom Swan, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of our thousands of member families I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to weigh in on several bills today.

CCAG supports S.B. 882 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY with several caveats. We believe the language needs to make clear that the zero carbon criteria includes both generation and supply. We hope that this is a drafting error and not backing away from the Governor's commitment in his Executive Order No. 3. We also must do better in terms of bringing the benefits of renewable energy and efficiency programs to low- and moderate-income residents of Connecticut, especially renters. Efficiency needs to be at the center of our progress and these residents have been paying into these programs and not been reaping the benefits in manner they should.

We support H.B. 6526 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS. Despite previous efforts to rein in abusive practices third party suppliers continue to develop new schemes to rip off consumers. The fact that consumers using third party suppliers were charged over \$34 Million more than customers on standard offer in 2020 according to the OCC. Furthermore, there are over 25,000 household still on auto renew that were grandfathered in. This bill, especially ending any auto renewals needs to pass. Deregulation in Connecticut has been almost as much of a failure as in Texas.

We oppose H.B. 6527 AN ACT INCREASING THE TOTAL OUTPUT OF CLASS III SOURCES. This moves us away from our greenhouse gas goals and therefore should be rejected.