

Dear Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Winfield, Representative Allie-Brennan, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I support SB 882 and its aim of decarbonizing our electric grid by 2040. But the language before you does not hit its target in that it could still allow Connecticut to export energy from dirty fossil-fueled power plants to other states and does not take any action in the near term to prevent the state from continuing to allow additional investments in fossil-fueled power plants.

The language instead should be amended to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from 100% of energy generated in Connecticut as well as 100% of energy supplied to Connecticut consumers. It should also be amended to prevent additional fossil fuel generation from being built in Connecticut today.

Connecticut's contribution to the climate crisis is cumulative. As the language is currently written, new fossil fuel generation could supply Connecticut ratepayers and pollute for the next 19 years. This is the decisive decade for climate action – our decisions today will determine how our neighbors in Connecticut, across the nation, and the world are impacted by climate change.

In that vein, the language should also be amended to reduce carbon emission by 100% by 2050. This is an issue of equity. As with the pandemic, at home and around the world those most impacted will be those with the least means to blunt the impact, the poor and the vulnerable. We live in one of the wealthiest states in the wealthiest country on Earth. We must do more. We must commit to decarbonizing completely by 2050.

Sincerely,

Steve Winter  
Alder, Ward 21  
New Haven