

Testimony in Support of SB 1047 - An Act Concerning Insurance and Climate Change

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1047. My name is Sandy Henschel, and I live in Gales Ferry (Ledyard). I urge your support of this bill because of my concern about the climate crisis. I have worried about the future of this planet since at least 2007 when I was still in my 30's. Now, I'm over 50 years old and far more worried about it.

I am extremely frustrated and flabbergasted that our government leaders have not taken this seriously enough to enact effective legislation by now. I may not live to see the worst of what's coming, but we are all witnessing the effects of it already, some of which include:

- Worsening natural disasters – more devastating in power and frequency;
- A pending food crisis with pollinators on the verge of extinction;
- Desertification happening all over the planet, leading to wars, extremism, starvation, and mass migration;
- Collapsing ecosystems in our oceans, further decreasing global food supply;
- And here in Connecticut - sea level rise that is flooding the coast during high tides and coming within feet of the train tracks along Long Island Sound.

With these impacts so obvious now, I really think we are in a huge amount of danger of massive unrest and economic upheaval within the next decade. It may start in far-off places, but as the pandemic has made so clear, what happens on the other side of the planet will affect us, too.

The insurance industry is something we should all be proud of in Connecticut. But we need to understand how they are continuing to underwrite the climate crisis, and act now to lead them to smarter, sustainable investments – so we can survive and they can too.

They should be preparing for the reality – analyzing and being honest about the risks we are facing. Isn't that what insurance is for?? The U.S. military has been studying and preparing for climate change for years, because they're also in the business of risk management.

We have a right to know if our state's flagship industry is further threatening our future by continuing to invest in the fossil fuel industry. We need to hold them accountable.

Please support Senate Bill 1047. This is such a great opportunity for a giant step forward in the fight for our survival. It could have a huge impact to Connecticut, and to people across the globe.

There really is no time to waste.

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