

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 Kimberly Stoner, and I live in New Haven. I am writing on behalf of 350 CT.

The mission of 350 CT is to work toward:

- 100% Renewable Energy
- An End to Fracked Gas Expansion
- Green Jobs for Fossil Fuel Workers
- An End to Environmental Racism
- Mass Transit for All

SB 1047 will deepen our understanding of the insurance industry investments in fossil fuel companies, the insurance they provide for fossil fuel projects, and the risks associated with both the investments in and insurance of the fossil fuel industry. It will also shine a light on the ways in which the insurance industry makes possible the continued destruction of the climate through the burning of fossil fuels.

This bill is a critical step in evaluating the risk to the state of Connecticut from the entanglement of the insurance industry in fossil fuels. In order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C, the vast majority of fossil fuels must remain in the ground. The fossil fuel industry's business model is based on extracting and burning fossil fuels that will result in the destruction of the planet. The campaign to divest from the fossil fuel industry has brought home the starkest fact of the global-warming era: that the industry has in its reserves five times as much carbon as the scientific consensus thinks we can safely burn. The governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, warned six years ago that the "stranded assets"—the coal, gas, and oil that need to be left underground—amount to a twenty-trillion-dollar "carbon bubble" that far exceeds the

housing bubble that sparked the 2008 financial conflagration. When that bubble bursts, we can expect that the investments of the insurance companies in the fossil fuel industries will burst, too — and take down much of the economy of the state of Connecticut with it.

Insurance companies make the fossil fuel industry possible because no aspect of fossil fuel exploration, extraction, construction, or transportation could be possible without insurance.

Beyond the financial risk, there is a moral imperative to stop the money from investments and insurance that allow fossil fuels to continue to be extracted, transported, and burned, polluting the earth, water, and air, and rapidly destroying our climate.

The state of Connecticut must follow in the steps of New York City, New York State, and numerous other governments around the world in divesting our state pension funds from fossil fuels. However, if we remain invested in insurance and financial companies that are deeply invested in fossil fuels, our finances and, much more important, our climate, remain at risk.

Senate Bill 1047 is a first step toward understanding how to completely divest our state government funds from the destruction of the climate, and 350 CT supports this bill.

*Kimberly Stoner
New Haven, CT
on behalf of 350 CT*