

February 17, 2021

Testimony of the Milford Energy Advisory Board to the Transportation Committee at the Public Hearing on February 19, 2021

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

The Milford Energy Advisory Board (EAB) is responsible for advising the City of Milford, Connecticut on reducing energy use. We are currently in the process of drafting an updated Energy Plan outlining goals for saving energy and money while reducing emissions and increasing resiliency in the City of Milford. The EAB enthusiastically supports statewide policies that support the efforts of the EAB to meet Milford's energy goals. In particular, the EAB offers statement of **support for S.B. 127, *An Act Concerning the Sale of Electric Vehicles in the State.***

The Milford EAB supports legislation that would expand the availability of electric vehicles to consumers in Connecticut. In our draft Energy Plan, we encourage adoption of electric vehicles by the City, residents, and businesses. The transportation sector (38%) is the largest source of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions.¹ Statewide policies that make it easier for consumers to choose electric are critical if Connecticut is to meet its statewide and municipal emissions reduction goals.

Research shows that electric vehicles are often less expensive over their lifetime than gas-powered vehicles due to lower maintenance costs and lower cost of charging compared with gasoline prices.² Consumers now have even more options for electric vehicles. Competition from new companies and start-ups will help drive the initial cost of an electric vehicle down even more. However, under current state law, Connecticut consumers cannot take full advantage of all the options for electric vehicles on the market.

Electric vehicles are the future of our transportation system. California will require sales of all new passenger vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035,³ and G.M. recently announced that it will sell only zero-emission vehicles by 2035.⁴ Connecticut is already a member of the nine-state Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Program, which is coordinating efforts to get 3.3 million electric vehicles on the road by 2025.⁵ Passing S.B. 127 will help the state reach its climate commitments and will save Connecticut consumers money.

¹ Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. "Transportation." Available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/Transportation>.

² Penney, Veronica. January 15, 2021. "Electric Cars are Better for the Planet – and Often Your Budget, Too." *New York Times*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/01/15/climate/electric-car-cost.html>.

³ Office of Governor Newsom. September 23, 2020. Available at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/09/23/governor-newsom-announces-california-will-phase-out-gasoline-powered-cars-drastically-reduce-demand-for-fossil-fuel-in-californias-fight-against-climate-change/>

⁴ Boudette, Neal E. and Coral Davenport. January 28, 2021. "G.M. Will Sell Only Zero-Emission Vehicles by 2035." *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/28/business/gm-zero-emission-vehicles.html>.

⁵ ZEV Task Force. "Multi-State ZEV Action Plan 2018-2021." Available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/air/mobile/EVConnecticut/2018---Multi-State-ZEV-Task-Force-Action-Plan.pdf>.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of the Milford Energy Advisory Board:

J. Alan Brewster, *Chair, former Deputy Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies*

James Day, *Solar Ambassador*

Curt Krushinsky, *Architect, Fairfield University*

Melissa Meek, *Project Manager, NMR Group*

Pieter Moen, *Engineer, Intersystems*

Sylvestre Moura, *Milford Public Works Department*

James Whitaker, *Energy Manager, Milford Public Schools*