

Dear Transportation Committee Member,

I am writing to voice my support for three bills on your agenda: HB 5419 (with amendments), SB 127, and HB 5423. Transportation accounts for nearly 40% of our pollution and represents a significant portion of household budgets. These three bills all provide meaningful support for the state's necessary transition to a clean transportation future.

With respect to H.B. No. 5419 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT FEE ON MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, no measure could make more sense. Connecticut residents frequently support legislative proposals that would establish dedicated funding for issues that we care about, including clean air and the climate. However, all too frequently our goodwill is thwarted and these dedicated funds are simply diverted to the state's General Fund to fill budgeting shortfalls. This bill ensures that the funding mechanism that Connecticut voters supported for clean air programs goes to its intended purpose.

However, the bill has one omission that should be corrected: Like the Clean Air Act fees, Connecticut residents supported the establishment of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fee on vehicle registrations to address climate emissions and support needed incentives to ramp up adoption of clean electric transportation in the state (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fee contained in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 22a-201c). However, only the first \$3 million of that GHG fee goes to support the state's EV incentive program. The remainder goes into the General Fund, where it does nothing to address clean air and climate needs.

Expanding electric vehicle adoption, as well as directing Clean Air Act fees to fund green projects, and expanding train and ground transportation services in eastern Connecticut will ensure our residents a clean, safe, and mobile future. Please support the following bills:

1. S.B. No. 127 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN THE STATE
  - Advances Equity
  - Advances Economic Recovery
  - Responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Addresses the Global Climate Crisis
  - Meets the state's Zero Emission Vehicle Goals
  
2. H.B. No. 5419 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT FEE ON MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
  - Ensure that the revenue collected from the "federal Clean Air Act fee" is used to fund green transportation initiatives
  - Expand and apply the same principle of transparency and fidelity to the public policy priorities of the state to the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fee contained in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 22a-201c
  - Ensure Greenhouse Gas fees are similarly applied to transportation-related greenhouse gas reduction programs, specifically the CHEAPR EV incentive program.
  
3. H.B. No. 5423 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF PASSENGER TRAIN AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT
  - Promote transit-oriented development
  - Reduce highway traffic congestion
  - Reduce carbon emissions
  - Further the state's overall policy goals for economic development

These bills are necessary to make meaningful and impactful change to our transportation system while ensuring a safe and healthy climate. Please act now by amending HB 5419, and passing all three bills out of committee.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Degling

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