

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

I'm very pleased the committee is considering a voluntary stretch building code in HB 5008 this year. There is no downside--individual communities can decide whether the approach is right for them, and where adopted, it will save property owners money over time and reduce emissions. Win-win.

Likewise, HB 5350's measures to reduce accidental releases of methane are just good sense. Leaks in natural gas infrastructure cost money and release a powerful greenhouse gas. Of course we should make sure they're shut down as fast as possible. (And regular maintenance is good for public safety, too.)

I strongly support those bills, as well as SB 10, for the reasons below. Thank you for your time.

**SUPPORT SB 10: Climate Change Recommendations** SB 10 puts the state on track to achieve mandated reductions while supporting a robust economy. Paired with the Green New Deal, these bills will ensure Connecticut will once again lead on climate policy. This legislation makes the goal of achieving a zero-carbon electric sector by 2040 a reality. SB 10 will also authorize the state to procure up to 300,000 MW hours of energy storage and efficiency and allows CT to adopt California's tailpipe emission standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

**SUPPORT HB 5350: Natural Gas Infrastructure Accountability** HB 5350 allows DEEP to solicit proposals for biogas for use in the state's natural gas distribution system. It also requires PURA to evaluate if a gas company should accelerate its schedule for the repair/replacement of aging infrastructure in order to fix leaks and reduce methane emissions, while ensuring that workers doing this repair work receive a fair wage. Finally, and at long last, it repeals the unnecessary gas pipeline tax.

**SUPPORT HB 5008: High Performance Green Building Standards (HB 5008)** SB 5008 gives towns that want to join the fight against climate change an opportunity to adopt a high-performance building standard that lowers the environmental impact of buildings. CT DEEP will develop a cost-effective standard that reduces the nearly 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions that come from our homes, workplaces, and public buildings—also saving you money on future utility bills. It will be voluntary for municipalities to adopt. This approach has already been successful in New York and Massachusetts; in the latter, over 270 towns have chosen to reduce their carbon footprint with high performance standards.

These three bills will help improve Connecticut's air quality and public health, help the state to meet its greenhouse reduction requirements, and spur job growth in Connecticut's burgeoning green economy.

Sincerely,

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