

Senator Needleman and Representative Arconti, and other members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). I am submitting today's testimony on behalf of our thousands of members statewide.

SB 10 An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change

CCAG supports SB 10, An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change. This bill would codify the goal of 100% carbon free electricity by 2040 set out in Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3. Moving Connecticut to zero carbon emissions from electricity is an essential step to mitigate the climate crisis and help Connecticut reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals mandated by the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).

We support the procurement of energy storage, additional energy efficiency, and demand response, all important components of our clean energy future. We also support adopting California's medium and heavy-duty vehicle emission standards.

In addition to 100% carbon free electricity by 2040, we think it is critically important to set similar goals for the transportation and building sectors, as deep decarbonization is necessary in those sectors to meet our emission reductions goals. Decarbonization in these sectors will impact electricity. The movement to 100% carbon free electricity by 2040 along with the steps necessary to meet our GWSA targets will grow jobs and transform our economy if we do it right.

Towards this end, CCAG believes we need to be more aggressive in anticipating and intentional in shaping how these changes will impact our economy. This includes job creation, transitions in workforce needs and ensure the benefits of clean economy are shared with communities, especially communities of color, often left out of energy policy previously.

HB 5350 An Act Concerning Natural Gas Infrastructure

We applaud the administration and the Energy and Technology Committee's proposal to end the subsidizing of gas infrastructure and conversions by charging electrical payers. Electric users should not be asked to underwrite the costs to incentivize the use and expansion of gas. We are pleased to see that DEEP and the Office of Consumer Counsel are also weighing in support of this consumer and environmental issue this year. With your leadership we are optimistic we will reverse this policy this year.

Gas is not a “bridge” fuel as previous legislatures were led to believe it is a fossil fuel and we thank you for acknowledging that. We recognize that our policy to allow ratepayers to be charged to build new interstate pipelines has not been used and it is important that we repeal this authorization before it ever could be, especially without explicit legislative authorization.

Counter to the earlier rhetoric that was used to give this authorization we actually need to move away from natural gas as quickly as possible.

We do strongly support HB5350, its move away from natural gas, and the requirement of a prevailing wage for work to repair and replace pipeline. We would; however, like greater clarity to ensure the replacement plans are consistent with our GWSA goals and an analysis if building other forms of energy infrastructure are more cost effective and consistent over the long term, A docket to explore this probably makes sense from our end.

**HB 5351 An Act Concerning Certain Programs and to Incentive and Implement
Electric Energy Storage Resources**

CCAG supports House Bill 5351 to procure up to 1,000 MW of energy storage. Energy storage is an essential component of our clean energy future.

**HB 5008 An Act Concerning the Establishment of High Performance Green Buildings
Standards for Voluntary Adoption by Municipalities**

CCAG supports House Bill 5008. Giving municipalities the ability to voluntarily implement stretch building codes developed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is a smart policy that will improve building efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions here in Connecticut.