



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Energy and Technology Committee**

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**Senate Bill 10, An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change**

Good morning Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology committee. The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Senate Bill 10, which offers several statutory revisions regarding climate change. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

The overall goals of Senate Bill 10 are to:

1. Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases from medium and heavy-duty vehicles; and
2. Reduce greenhouse gases to a level of zero percent from electric generators by 2040.

Both of these goals will greatly help to improve the health of Connecticut residents by reducing the direct health effects of air pollution, especially ground level ozone, and reducing the spectrum of possible health consequences related to climate change. Connecticut regularly experiences bad air days each summer when ozone levels exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ambient air quality standard for ozone. The adoption of California's medium and heavy-duty vehicle emission standards in Connecticut has the ability to positively impact ozone levels in Connecticut and known adverse health effects associated with elevated ozone levels (worsening of asthma, bronchitis and emphysema). The risks of elevated ozone are most important for sensitive populations; especially children, people with asthma, older adults and people who are active outdoors.

This bill's overall goal of reducing greenhouse gases can help protect Connecticut residents from a number of adverse outcomes that are associated with climate change. Many of the predicted negative impacts that may result are delineated by the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) in their report "[Connecticut Physical Climate Science Assessment Report](#)". These adverse events include increased numbers of heat related illnesses that are

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expected to occur under current climate change projections. The maximum number of days above 90 degrees is expected to increase significantly in the coming decades.

Extreme precipitation events are also expected to increase, and flood risk (both inland and coastal) is expected to rise along with accompanying possible health related issues. They include inundation of public water supply and private well infrastructures, damage to septic systems in low lying coastal areas, increased risk of water damage to homes and businesses and possible mold growth, and increased pollution from storm water overflows to surrounding areas, causing more frequent closures of swimming areas. Increasing temperatures may also have an impact on vector borne diseases since populations of disease carrying ticks and mosquitos may increase with rising winter and summer temperatures. Extreme weather events are also likely to impact the safe daily yield and water quality of public drinking water supplies. Shellfish may also be impacted by increased bacterial contamination, especially by Vibrio bacteria.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. We encourage committee members to reach out to DPH with any questions.