



**Testimony of AARP CT  
Senate Bill 10,  
AAC Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change**

**Energy and Technology Committee  
March 5, 2020  
Submitted by John Erlingheuser, AARP Connecticut**

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with an age 50+ membership of nearly 38 million nationwide, and nearly 600,000 members here in Connecticut. AARP supports livable communities for all ages, aging in place initiatives and financial opportunity and resiliency for everyone as they work age and retire. We are before the General Assembly every year on a multitude of bills that support these issues.

AARP supports sustainable, cost effective, energy policies.. AARP is fuel neutral, meaning we do not favor one fuel source over another. Many of our members struggle to make ends meet and cannot afford to pay higher electricity rates due to optional public policies. As such, AARP offers the following comments on Senate Bill 10. AARP opposes allowing electric distribution companies being allowed to carry expensive 20-year contracts. With electricity rates already in excess of 20 cents per kwh (among the highest in the nation), this provision of the bill could make a bad situation worse. New costly 20-year commitments carried by distribution companies (who are no longer in the generation business) is poor public policy. Renewable costs are falling. Locking in prices today - including the cost of associated transmission - could be an expensive proposition, which our members, many of whom are on fixed incomes, cannot afford. We urge that this provision be stricken from the bill.

Section 2 tightens Connecticut's path to the reduction of greenhouse gasses by adding an intermediate goal of zero percent emissions of GHG from electric generation services in the state, not later than January 1, 2040. This section becomes effective July 1, 2020. AARP suggests introducing affordability considerations into the mandate set out in the legislation. Care must be taken to ensure the path taken remains affordable as GHG goals are pursued, and that the mandate fairly considers all customers. AARP supports prioritizing energy efficiency, available equitably to all customers, as a primary vehicle for achieving the goal. The sources to be reduced to zero are from "electric generation serving electric usage in the state." This provision needs clarification, in light of Connecticut's interconnection with ISO-NE and neighboring regions, and in light of limitations on state actions with impacts on interstate commerce.

Section 3 calls for the procurement of additional sources of demand resources measures and of storage. The commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to, whether the proposal

(1) is in the best interest of ratepayers, (2) is consistent with statutory requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and (3) is consistent with the policy goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy and the Integrated Resources Plan. The requirement that the procurements be “in the best interests of ratepayers” should be further clarified to include affordability and reasonable rates for all electric customers equally. Care should be taken that this provision not be used as a vehicle to move to full funding of unproven technologies before their benefits and the allocation of benefits are well understood.