

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

Thank you for taking the time to consider these three bills. It gives me great hope that our state can finally take some truly significant action to address this terrifying situation we are in. I don't use the word "terrifying" lightly. It is getting harder to listen to the news every day, as there seems to be no end to really disastrous events. The signs are everywhere that it will just keep getting worse, and it is impacting my life in many ways.

I live and work along the coast of CT, and with the increasing frequency and severity of storms all around the globe, combined with sea level rise, I worry about how safe it is to be here. Although I moved back to CT to be near my aging parents, I have a lot of ambivalence about staying in this area, and it is causing a lot of misgivings and indecision about whether I want to buy a home here nor not.

While these bills are not the cure for all the problems we face with climate change, I believe they are critical steps toward a future with clean energy. Even though CT is a small state, we can have great power by joining with the other cities and states that are choosing to abide by the principals of the Paris Accord.

I STRONGLY 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 (SB 354), 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.

Let's get that energy storage!! And let's make the air around CT's highways less toxic!

I also STRONGLY 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.

Please get rid of that ridiculous tax that makes all of us pay for the fossil fuel companies' buildouts! Natural gas expansion is out of control and smacks right in the face of everything we are trying to achieve with greenhouse gas emission reductions. And the presence of methane leaks in our state is unacceptable, for the same reasons - their huge contribution to climate change is widely ignored, and that should stop.

And I 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.

This one is a great way to get all our CT towns talking about how they can increase efficiency. I worked in Alaska for several years and was involved in the energy rebate program they had for homeowners to weatherize their homes and make them more efficient. It was extremely popular.

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 bur