



Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

14 Tremont Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Testimony Before the Energy and Technology Committee

In support of
**S.B. No. 10, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Submitted by
John Humphries, Executive Director/Lead Organizer
March 5, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Norm Needleman and David Arconti and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in support of Proposed S.B. No. 10, An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change.

This legislation seeks to address the climate crisis by setting Connecticut on a path to 100% clean and renewable electricity while authorizing the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to adopt California's emissions standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles.

By amending the Global Warming Solutions Act to require the elimination of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from electricity generation serving customers in Connecticut by the year 2040, this bill strengthens our state's commitment to providing leadership in climate action.

I live in Hartford, and I serve as Executive Director/Lead Organizer for the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs (CRCJ). CRCJ builds alliances among diverse constituencies to combat climate change, create jobs and promote racial, economic and environmental justice.

One focus of our work is engaging organized labor in the fight for climate justice. Together, we have helped forge a path for climate action that leads to significant local job creation. Last year's historic commitment to 2000 MW of offshore wind energy secured near-unanimous support in the General Assembly and has already yielded the state's largest-ever procurement of renewable energy. That project will bring hundreds of union jobs and economic development to Bridgeport, one of the state's poorest urban areas.

Connecticut has a long history of bipartisan leadership on climate, with Governor Rowland establishing a Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change and Governor Rell signing the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008, mandating economy-wide emissions reduction goals for 2020 and 2050.

CRCJ's advocacy also prompted Governor Malloy to establish the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), and I have served as a member of the GC3 since its inception. In 2018, the GC3's recommended emissions reduction target for 2030 prompted a concomitant increase in the renewable

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portfolio standard and both measures won large bipartisan majorities in the General Assembly that spring to become law.

But these important steps taken by our state to address climate change are not enough.

100% Carbon-Free Electricity

Governor Lamont's proposal for 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040 builds on the state's earlier commitments to envision the elimination of emissions from the electric sector. The state's recent procurements of offshore wind are just one indication that this goal is achievable.

I strongly support amending the Global Warming Solutions Act to require the elimination of GHG emissions from electricity generation serving customers in Connecticut by the year 2040.

Reducing Transportation Emissions

This bill also addresses the need to reduce emissions from transportation, the largest source of GHG emissions in Connecticut. The state has long followed California's standards for cars and light-duty trucks, but this would extend more stringent regulations to larger vehicles. Doing so would not only reduce emissions statewide, it would have a disproportionate beneficial impact on the state's urban areas that have suffered the most from toxic air pollution.

New Procurement Authority

Moving to a 100% zero-carbon electric grid will mean replacing fossil fuel resources with new technologies like energy storage, and scaling investment in highly cost-beneficial resources like energy efficiency and demand response that will help maintain reliability and integrate renewable resources onto the grid. For this reason, I support the new authority provided in Section 3 of the bill for DEEP to procure energy storage, energy efficiency, and demand response to support the 100% zero carbon goal.

These critical steps will help Connecticut respond to the serious consequences of climate change already facing our state. Our coastal communities anticipate sea level rise of up to 20 inches by 2050, which will exacerbate the flooding from severe storms with greater frequency and intensity. We are already experiencing warmer and wetter winters and hotter summers, with widespread impacts – from public health to agriculture.

The good news about climate action is that we do not have to choose between protecting the climate and creating family-supporting local jobs -- or between economic development and environmental justice. The offshore wind projects coming to New London and Bridgeport will bring hundreds of union jobs and economic development to those struggling urban areas.

I strongly support S.B. No. 10, and I urge the Committee to pass the bill and help Connecticut continue to provide regional and national leadership in climate action.

Respectfully submitted,

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