



***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE***

March 5, 2020

*David Lehman, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development*

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

Good afternoon Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology committee. My name is David Lehman, and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 10: An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change. I thank Governor Lamont for proposing this legislation, and I support Governor Lamont's efforts to protect our environment while moving Connecticut to a zero carbon future.

As you know, our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting Connecticut's arts, cultural and tourism assets.

Senate Bill 10 would give the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) the ability to pursue regulations to adopt California's tailpipe emission standards, would require a statewide zero carbon electric sector by 2040, and would allow the state procurement authority for up to 300,000 megawatt hours of energy storages, demand response, and energy efficiency.

Businesses across the country and world are coming to grips with the effects of climate change and are being compelled to act. Look no further than Amazon, the most valuable public company in the world, whose CEO, Jeff Bezos, recently committed \$10 billion towards the creation of the Bezos Earth Fund after hundreds of its employees criticized the company for its response to climate change. Amazon has also contracted to purchase 100,000 electric delivery vehicles. Similarly, Microsoft has announced that it will be carbon negative by 2030. As more and more business decisions start to revolve around climate change, the state must do everything it can to be a national leader on this issue.

Additionally, the shift to green energy supports new jobs and new industries, many of which have their roots in Connecticut. I believe Senate Bill 10 will strengthen efforts to combat climate change, make our state more attractive to businesses who are doing the same, and support businesses who are providing goods and services in the new green energy economy.