



March 8, 2021

Dear Environment Committee Chairs and Distinguished Members:

I am writing in **support** of HB 6551, AN ACT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY. In addition, I encourage you to amend this bill to add HB 5817, AN ACT ESTABLISHING GREEN JUSTICE ZONES.

As you are well aware, we are in a climate emergency, with precious few years to change course. We must do everything within our power to shift the direction we are heading. In the business-as-usual state, the burdens of climate change are not shared equally. Low income and marginalized communities suffer first and worst from all the pollution we pump into the atmosphere. It is imperative that we address this directly, recognizing the mistakes we have made in the past, and correcting them now. This bill, plus HB 5817, can make a difference here.

It is morally right, environmentally right, and financially right to eliminate hazardous pollution from overburdened communities. How much talent and potential is squandered when children miss school because of asthma attacks? How much does it cost for emergency room visits for a trigger that we can mitigate? How much productive work is lost for an adult suffering from respiratory issues from breathing in toxic fumes day in and day out? These issues can be addressed through these bills, by mitigating the source of the problem and by providing tools to create a healthy environment for all to thrive.

These bills benefit not just the specific communities involved, but all of us. We are only as strong as our weakest link.

Please support HB 6551 and please amend this bill to include HB 5871. Thank you.

Susan Miller, Chair, Windsor Climate Action

130 Palisado Ave

Windsor, CT 06095