



March 7, 2021
From: Angel Serrano
City: Hartford

Written Testimony Submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee in Support of HB 6551: AN ACT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY

To the Honorable Senator Christine Cohen, Co-Chair; Representative Joseph P. Gresko, Co- Chair; Senator Derek Slap, Vice Chair; Representative Christine Palm, Vice Chair; Ranking Members and all Members of the Environment Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 6551 AN ACT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY. This bill is great on its own but it needs strengthening in the way of more robust Environmental Justice provisions including no new industrial pollution sources. We must stop the addition of new pollution into our most vulnerable communities. This must protect the air that we breathe.

We at CCAG believe this bill can go further in protecting our most vulnerable communities by adding Proposed Bill 5817 AN ACT ESTABLISHING GREEN JUSTICE ZONES to this bill (HB 6551). We propose that this bill will aim to create a Green Justice Zone pilot to start in two Connecticut locations. This pilot will dramatically reduce industrial pollution and provide funding for environmental remediation projects. We propose the following be added:

Key elements of Green Justice Zones:

- Provide state funding for remediation projects in Green Justice Zones
- Remove polluting sources in Green Justice Zones
- Hold at least 6 community meetings to learn about the possible remediation projects:
 - lead service pipe replacement
 - energy efficiency and weatherization retrofits with full remediation of health and safety barriers
 - install energy-efficient heating systems in residential homes (energy efficiency retrofits must precede this)
 - install solar panels on residential homes and other local buildings (energy efficiency retrofits must precede this)
 - install ventilation and air filtration systems in residential homes
 - install a microgrid in the local community, powered by local renewable

CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

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energy generation

- renovate old, residential, low-income, houses with high-quality building materials
- clean up local pollution
- Community votes to decide on projects
- Local residents of the Zone will be the first to be offered project jobs
- Connecticut will also provide funding for union-led programs to equip Zone residents with the job skills needed

We believe that by adding the Green Justice Zones and Environmental Justice policies will make this bill more robust and capable of addressing this important issue of environmental quality in our communities.

Thank you,
Angel Serrano
Organizer
CT Citizen Action Group

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