

**To:** Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee  
**From:** Eluned Li, Sunrise NHv Organizer

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of HB 6551.**

My parents and I nearly lost my younger brother to childhood asthma several times, we spent nights awake by his bed, afraid he might stop breathing. I am afraid for my future children, for pregnant women, for the elderly, for young people in my own community and other polluted neighborhoods across New Haven, Stamford, Bridgeport, Hartford, Killingly, and so many parts of Connecticut that fail the American Lung Association's standards for air quality. Life-threatening conditions in young children should not be commonplace, they should not be widely accepted when there is a clear cause and an obvious solution.

I urge the committee to please give this bill your full support. Connecticut must take seriously the task of combatting the public health crisis caused by air pollution, tackle our greenhouse gas emissions seriously, and grant disadvantaged communities the ability to financially deal with the impacts of this crisis. Establishing a working group entirely to address this issue is a great first step, to protect the public from harmful projects that now seem to make it through the permit process with ease.

More public policy must be based on scientific findings. Addressing the air quality issues that have troubled low-income communities for generations will significantly reduce risk of premature death and improve our resilience to future outbreaks of respiratory illnesses such as SARS-CoV-2. This is a serious problem with very clear solutions, and those solutions must be pursued for the betterment of our community.

I would like to thank the committee for the time and consideration, and urge you all to support this bill.