

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 6551** AN ACT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY

3/5/2021

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: Bob Wall, Chair, Sustainable Fairfield Task Force

Sustainable Fairfield Task Force is in **SUPPORT** of **HB 6551**. The establishment of an Environmental Equity working group to identify and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants in communities that are disproportionately affected is sorely needed.

HB 6551 bolsters Connecticut's environmental justice law to prevent power plants, sewage treatment plants, incinerators, and landfills from being built in proximity to low-income and minority communities. Connecticut consistently garners "F's" in the American Lung Association's "State of the Air" reports.

HB 6551 should be amended to include new data centers that are being incentivized in the state with the recommendations of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, The Sierra Club and other groups, to:

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- Prohibit diesel or fossil fuel back-up power to protect environmental justice communities.
- Require the most energy-efficient servers
- Require that construction of data centers meet a net-zero, all-electric standard
- Require that data centers conserve water by requiring air cooled or closed loop water systems
- Require buildings be heated with waste heat from the data center, and allow excess heat to be used for thermal energy storage and or community heating needs
- Require data centers to meet sustainability goals of the municipality in which they are located.

Sustainable Fairfield Task Force **SUPPORTs** **HB 6551** in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollutants and protect the equity and public health of our most vulnerable populations

Thank you.

Bob Wall, Chair, Sustainable Fairfield Task Force