

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5440
AN ACT CONCERNING LIFECYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF
Title: BIOFUELS.
Vote Date: 3/21/2024
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Environment
PH Date: 3/14/2024
File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Representative Joseph G. Gresko, 121st District](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut's electrical grid needs to be updated and renovated in order to incorporate sources of clean energy that can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, incorporating more sources of clean energy can be expensive, and take several years to complete. It is crucial to search for an effective way to incorporate sources of cleaner energy. Regarding heating units, Connecticut must discover better and more affordable options for homeowners and their current heating units. This bill is crucial for Connecticut because swapping out oil systems with heat pumps will put the state further behind in reducing emissions and cause electricity shortages. This bill would require the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to follow the **Greenhouse, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Technologies (GREET)** model when analyzing the Lifecycle of biofuels. It will give the most accurate and up-to-date lifecycle analysis.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie Dykes, Commissioner- CT DEEP

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is in opposition of **HB-5440** CT DEEP believes passing this bill would cause double counting of emissions across jurisdictional boundaries, and it would cause gross inadequacies and enormous complications. Furthermore, CT GHG inventory guidance approach comes from the International Panel on Climate Change.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Stephen G. Rosentel, President of Leahy's Fuels, is in support of **HB-5440**, he believes we need all available solutions to address climate change while providing affordable options to consumers.

Stephen Sack, President of Sack Energy Corporation, is in support of **HB-5440**, alternative renewable fuels have shown to reduce GHG by 75%, a perfect way to reduce strain of our electrical grid. See the attached report from ISO-NEW ENGLAND in his testimony that shows updating our electrical gride will take 30 years and \$40billion in cost. Renewable Biofuels is the answer and its cost saving for the homeowners.

Chris Bliley, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at Growth Energy
Growth Energy is in support of **HB-5440** the bill would require **CT DEEP** to use the **GREET** model in any lifecycle analysis of biofuels. The use of higher blends of bioethanol leads to better environment outcomes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kendall Keelen, Associate Attorney- Conservation Law Foundation
CLF is in opposition of **HB-5440**, the bill would require CT DEEP to follow the GREET model when in future reports and inventories of CT greenhouse gas emissions. The result of using the GREET model can lead to misleading conclusions that exaggerate climate benefits.

Reported by: Josh Reyes and Abigail Lockwood Date: 4/2/2024