



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH CHANGES
HB 6397 AAC ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS
February 14, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 6397 as it relates to Connecticut's strong commitment to addressing climate change and reducing our carbon emissions.

We greatly appreciate that the Environment Committee has raised legislation to keep pushing forward policies that address our climate future. Much collaborative work has been done to determine what our next steps should be, involving many energy and environmental experts. **Please consider the detailed provisions contained in HB 5564 as our recommended language for HB 6397.**

CTLCV joins our environmental partners in supporting five key steps that we believe are needed to achieve our zero carbon goals:

1. Update Emission Reduction Targets

A net-zero by 2050 emissions target is now recognized as critical and necessary. It is what the federal government is using. To ensure that we maintain steady progress towards our medium and long-term reduction goals, interim benchmark reduction targets should also be established.

2. Require consideration of climate impacts for agency action and mitigation for adverse impacts

To reach our climate goals, we need a commitment to act comprehensively across the government. State agencies and other administrative decision-making bodies must incorporate an evaluation of climate impacts in their decision-making. When an agency's action results in increased emissions, such action must be accompanied by appropriate offsetting mitigation measures.

3. Ensure compliance with GWSA requirements

Connecticut must establish the ability of citizens to enforce the Global Warming Solutions Act. Connecticut has a long history of empowering citizens to ensure that the state meets its commitment to preserving the environment. Since 1971, CT's Environmental Protection Act has authorized citizens to take action to ensure the state is fulfilling its obligation to protect the environment. This authority means little if it does not include the ability to enforce our landmark climate law as well.

4. Complete a Connecticut Decarbonization Roadmap

The only way to meet emission reduction targets is to know how we're going to get there. We need specific policies, programs, actions and decisions –a roadmap. Although there are valuable planning tools the state uses such as the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) and Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), DEEP staff have acknowledged that there is no economy-wide, integrated decarbonization roadmap for CT to achieve our critical climate targets. Massachusetts has completed a similar decarbonization roadmap plan.

5. Establish needed regulatory authority for state agencies to adopt regulations to meet our climate targets

Within the framework of accountability and enforceability, our state agencies must be able to act to meet the climate crisis. Agencies need to have the authority to promulgate regulations and establish programs to mitigate climate emissions in order to ensure success in meeting our statutorily mandated greenhouse gas reduction obligations. Only with stronger accountability and enforcement mechanisms, can our state's climate law achieve the GHG reductions essential to our future.

CTLCV is proud of our state for making great progress in 2022 to advance clean transportation and solidify targets to reduce carbon from our electricity sector. Now we ask that you take the next steps to identify and pass the comprehensive policies that will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 across all sectors.

Please follow the links or the QR codes for more information on the [Global Warming Solutions Act](#) and the [Decarbonization Roadmap](#).



GWSA



ROADMAP

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