



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

SB 1145 The Establishment of Sector Specific SubTargets for
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions
March 10, 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, CT League of Conservation Voters

CTLCV appreciates that the Environment Committee has again raised important climate legislation to reduce our polluting greenhouse gas emissions. SB 1145 is the most impactful climate legislation of the session.

Following the passage of legislation in 2022 that codified our state's commitment to 100% clean electricity, **SB 1145 is the critical next step to identify the policies needed to reduce emissions in each sector of our economy.**

We are strongly in favor of SB 1145, which reflects many conversations with DEEP, advocates, and lawmakers. In the spirit of making this bill even better, we encourage members of the Environment Committee to consider improvements that would strengthen the bill and assure accountability.

This requires updating our Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) to include a roadmap on how we will decarbonize. 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. This should be the GWSA target for CT and SB 1145 would accomplish this. However, to ensure that we maintain steady progress, interim benchmark reduction targets should also be established.

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

To reach our climate goals, we need a commitment to act comprehensively across government. State agencies must evaluate climate impacts in their decision-making. When an agency's action results in increased emissions, the agency must take appropriate mitigation measures.

3. Ensure compliance with GWSA requirements

Connecticut must establish the ability of citizens to enforce the Global Warming Solutions Act. 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 should include the ability to enforce our landmark climate law and should be added to SB 1145.

4. Complete a Connecticut Decarbonization Roadmap

Although there are very important planning related provisions in SB 1145, a comprehensive roadmap is still needed to bring together an actionable set of steps and milestones that will achieve our emissions targets. There is no economy-wide, integrated decarbonization roadmap for CT. SB 1145 can be strengthened to integrate a CT roadmap into the GWSA.

5. Establish 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 the authority to develop regulations and establish programs to mitigate climate emissions that meet our state goals. SB 1145 makes significant strides toward stronger accountability and enforcement mechanisms to achieve the GHG reductions essential to our future.

We urge members of the Environment Committee to pass SB 1145 to build upon the progress made in 2022 and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 across all sectors.

CTLCV aligns our support with testimony submitted by The Nature Conservancy and Save the Sound, which provide detailed recommendations for specific sections of the bill. We would like to specifically mention Sections 2 – 4 and 7 of the bill, which recognize the significance of Connecticut's natural and working lands in both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

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

CT League of Conservation Voters
553 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

ctlc.org | ctlc@ctlc.org