



Connecticut League of Conservation Voters  
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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF DEEP COMMISSIONER KATIE DYKES

January 16, 2023

**To:** The Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Duff and Representative Concepcion, and Distinguished Members of the Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Katie Dykes as Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters is thrilled to express our appreciation for the strong leadership of Commissioner Dykes in pursuit of the agency's mission. She has done yeoman's work in the struggle to fulfill the increasing demands placed on the agency despite the severe shortage of both staff and funding.

Commissioner Dykes understands the importance of investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reducing vehicle emissions to address climate change. Protecting our natural resources and state parks, managing our recycling and waste programs, cleaning up toxic waste, and managing state permits are just some of the responsibilities that the Commissioner oversees. CTLCV sees a huge need for DEEP to increase efforts around wildlife and habitat protection, and we urge state lawmakers to match that need with adequate funding.

In the last four years, DEEP has made considerable progress on clean energy, obtaining major procurements of offshore wind and setting goals to fully decarbonize our electric grid by 2040. Under the Lamont Administration, Commissioner Dykes worked collaboratively with state legislators to adopt programs that will reduce pollution from transportation. DEEP is also implementing several Executive Orders that created a new Office on Climate, established the Climate Resilience Fund, and expanded the Governor's Council on Climate Change (CG3). DEEP is currently implementing many of the GC3's recommendations.

Commissioner Dykes also established the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management, which united more than ninety municipalities around an array of viable solutions to our state's growing waste management crisis. There is a tremendous amount of work ahead for DEEP to help resolve our garbage problem.

With strong leadership and sufficient resources, our state can prevail on all these efforts. We at CTLCV look forward to working with Commissioner Dykes over the next four years, and we are proud to support her nomination today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Brown".

Lori Brown  
Executive Director