



Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF OF SB 232
AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOWABLE PERCENTAGE OF LEAKAGE FROM GAS PIPELINES

February 1, 2019

To: Honorable Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of SB 232**, An Act Concerning the Allowable Percentage of Leakage from Gas Pipelines.

Gas leakage from our current pipeline infrastructure in Connecticut is costly to ratepayers and causes considerable damage to our environment and our climate. SB 232 calls for stricter repair action for leaking fracked gas pipelines and prohibits gas companies from charging customers for gas lost from leakage.

gas from pipelines is primarily methane, which traps at least thirty times more heat in our atmosphere than carbon dioxide and is the second largest contributor to climate change. Methane leaks can destroy vegetation, disrupt local ecosystems, and increase the risk of explosions, like the deadly incident in Eastern Massachusetts last year.

Gas leaks are also a major obstacle to reducing our state's greenhouse gas emissions to at least 45% below the level emitted in 2001 by 2030, and to at least 80% below the level emitted in 2001 by 2050. With our federal government in denial about the reality and impact of climate change, states like Connecticut must do everything in our power right now to reduce emissions.

Most of our state's pipelines are made of leak-prone iron or metal instead of more durable plastics. According to the EPA, plastic pipelines leak almost 20 times less than their iron or metal counterparts. **Enacting a hard cap on the percentage of allowable gas leakage** will push pipeline owners to make needed upgrades. The proposed bill caps leakages at 1%, down from 3% currently allowed. Without this tighter cap, pipeline owners have little motivation to revamp their aging infrastructure.

Consumers should not foot the bill for leakages. Charging consumers for leaked gas which was never available to them in the first place is not acceptable. Big businesses should not be allowed to pass the cost of their maintenance failures onto consumers. Passage of SB 232 will remedy this injustice.

Thank you for considering this testimony as you deliberate SB 232.

Sincerely,

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

Lori Brown
Executive Director