



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT of SB 354**  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR CONNECTICUT

February 28, 2020

**To:** Honored Chairs Sen. Kushner and Rep. Porter and Distinguished Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

**From:** Emily Alexander, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 354** to establish a Green New Deal for Connecticut.

**SB 354 sets achievable targets for 100% clean and renewable electricity, transportation, and buildings.** The bill sets emissions reduction targets to comply with our greenhouse gas reduction goals, ensuring accountability and follow through.

**The Green New Deal establishes a Just Transition Office to assist workers and employers in the transition to a clean energy economy.** In order to ensure that jobs are gained, not lost during this economic transition, the Office will conduct a study on growth areas and sector specific impacts, identify unmet training needs, and may establish workforce development, retraining and apprenticeship programs, including programs in and for environmental justice communities. The bill will require prevailing wage and project labor agreements in solicitations related to achieving zero-carbon electricity, transportation and buildings.

Additionally, SB 354 addresses environmental equity by establishing and convening an Environmental Equity Working Group to identify disadvantaged communities for clean energy investments. **The bill requires 40% of the benefits of new policies be achieved in identified communities, and 40% of energy efficiency funds be spent serving low and moderate income residences.** SB 354 would remove barriers that prevent low-income residents from accessing energy efficiency programs by making efficiency programs “fuel blind” and removing paperwork barriers.

It is time for Connecticut to get serious about climate change and commit to a Green New Deal. CTLCV urges the committee to **SUPPORT SB 354**. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

Sincerely,

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