



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5350
AN ACT CONCERNING NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

March 3, 2020

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Arconti and Distinguished Members of the Energy & Technology Committee

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

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of HB 5350 AAC NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE**

The fossil fuel industry is pushing hard to build new gas fired power plants and gas pipelines throughout the nation, including here in Connecticut. If they succeed, we will be locked into dirty fuel for many years to come, making it harder to reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions and reach our clean energy goals.

We urge members of the Energy and Technology Committee to take new pipelines out of the picture by passing HB 5350. This bill would remove the authority of utilities to impose a tax on ratepayers for the purpose of building NEW pipelines. Passage of the bill also addresses the need for utilities to repair existing pipelines that continue to leak methane gas, the most damaging of all greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the cost of lost methane fuel is merely passed on to the customer and so there is no incentive to make the needed repairs.

Connecticut must double down on its investment in renewable energy like wind and solar and not force ratepayers to invest in dirty fuels like fracked gas—which is bad for our health, our environment and pocketbooks.

To quote DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes, “Gas is not a bridge fuel, it is a fossil fuel.” It is time make good on our state's commitments to reduce our carbon emissions. Removing the option to invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure sends a powerful signal that Connecticut is serious about tackling climate change and by extension encouraging investment in clean power sources. It is time to repeal Connecticut's gas infrastructure tax.

CTLCV strongly urges you to **vote for the environment and the ratepayers of Connecticut** and send this bill to the House and Senate for consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown
Executive Director
CTLCV
553 Farmington Avenue, Suite 201 Hartford, CT 06105
ctlcv.org | ctlcv@ctlcv.org