



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT of HB 5439**  
AAC HEAT PUMP ADOPTION  
March 14, 2024

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5439 which sets the goal of installing 310,000 heat pumps in homes and businesses by 2030.

Heat pumps exemplify the kind of sustainable and effective technology that Connecticut should embrace. They operate by using electricity with great efficiency to provide both heating and cooling to buildings.

During the winter, heat pumps extract heat from the ground or air outside and convey it into your house, effectively warming the interior. Conversely, in the summer, they work by pumping hot air from inside your house to the outside, providing cooling.

According to the EPA, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in the United States is from the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation.

Building appliances powered with oil or gas such as heating equipment and water heaters generate 23% of Connecticut's total NOx (ground ozone) pollution and roughly 30% of Connecticut's total greenhouse gas emissions.

**Heat pumps provide two to three times more heat to buildings than the electricity they consume, which makes them far more efficient than traditional HVAC systems and water heaters.**

Reducing the amount of emissions we release from heating our homes will substantially reduce our carbon footprint and help Connecticut reach our carbon emission reduction goals.

As CT moves towards renewable energy sources, the electricity that we use for heat pumps will become cleaner, making the system more cost effective and efficient in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Heat pumps can also be integrated into a community heating and cooling system through a network of pipes to serve multiple buildings at once. In Massachusetts, Eversource and National Grid are already developing community heat pump systems. Transitioning to heat pumps at a community level can have huge benefits to ratepayers by reducing the cost of both installation and operation.

**This program should also provide \$10 million to eliminate barriers to heat pump adoption in multifamily dwellings in environmental justice communities, so that these communities can benefit from this technology.**

CTL CV urges the committee to **SUPPORT HB 5439** to promote the widespread installation of heat pumps throughout the state. This initiative will help reduce residents' utility costs and decrease the overall greenhouse gas emissions associated with heating in Connecticut.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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