



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT WITH CHANGES to SB 882**
AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND HOME ENERGY
AFFORDABILITY
March 3, 2021

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

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in regards to **SB 882 An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability**.

100% Zero Carbon

CTLCV strongly supports SB 882 to codify into statute Executive Order #3, proposed by Governor Lamont in 2019, to bring Connecticut to a 100% zero-carbon electric grid by 2040.

Unfortunately, this bill only requires that electricity “supplied to electric customers in the state” meet the 100% zero-carbon goal, not all electricity generated in Connecticut. **The language in SB 882 must be amended to include electricity generation along with supply.** By only addressing the electricity supplied to customers, Connecticut could still theoretically achieve the 100% goal by 2040 while still having 54 fossil fuel power plants in the state. That number could be even higher if the Killingly power plant progresses.

This bill is not consistent with our state’s goals of achieving a carbon-free electric grid. **SB 882 as written is an unacceptable retreat from the original intent of the Governor’s Executive Order #3 that CTLCV supported in 2019.**

A true clean-energy future does not include 54 polluting power plants. Connecticut should not allow itself to become a hub of dirty electricity in New England when we have come so far in our environmental goals.

In 2019, Connecticut passed legislation to procure as much as 2,000 megawatts in clean offshore wind energy. However, new fracked gas power plants, like the 650 megawatt plant in Killingly and the 375 megawatt plant in Middletown, are reversing Connecticut’s progress on climate change. According to the Acadia Center’s June 2020 Brief on the Role of Natural Gas Power in New England, over the next decade, gas will play a much smaller role in electricity

generation. As a result, new and existing gas-fueled power plants will be underused and unnecessary.

Energy Efficiency

CTL CV applauds the provision in SB 882 that allows DEEP to procure **300,000 megawatts of electricity from demand response and energy efficiency measures**, which is equivalent to 1% of Connecticut's entire load. These resources are proven to not only save customers money, but also to provide stability and reliability for the electric grid at all hours of the day as the state increases the use of resources such as wind and solar energy.

Home Energy Rating

CTL CV supports SB 882 to **ensure that homeowners have affordable energy solutions at their disposal that do not contribute to further environmental degradation**. Energy affordability begins with transparency of costs for homeowners and renters as well as the opportunity to reduce those costs. Property owners, when listing homes, will be required to provide prospective buyers and tenants with either a Home Energy Label - a number generated during a home energy audit that summarizes the property's energy efficiency - *or* the last twelve months of energy bills. Doing so will inform prospective buyers of the upfront costs, which works toward ensuring energy affordability for all.

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, I urge you to **AMEND SB 882 to include electricity generation along with supply**, and to support energy efficiency procurement and home energy affordability. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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