



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 884**  
AN ACT REDUCING TRANSPORTATION-RELATED CARBON EMISSIONS

03.04.21

**To:** Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Borer and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

**From:** Lori Brown, Executive Director, 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 884, An Act Reducing Transportation-related Carbon Emissions.**

SB 884 codifies into statute the implementation of the program to cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation known as the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program TCI-P. TCI-P is essential to fighting climate change and ensuring cleaner air and better connectivity within the state. The program centers on input from low-income and other marginalized communities to better address equity issues.

**Transportation accounts for 38% of Connecticut’s greenhouse gas emissions, making it a major contributor to our climate crisis.** Transportation is also a public health and equity issue. Connecticut urban centers are overrun with traffic congestion, leading to some of the worst air quality in the country. In 2019, the *American Lung Association* “State of the Air” report gave the state of Connecticut “F ratings” for ozone air pollution levels.

The program institutes a binding declining cap on carbon emissions from gasoline and on-road diesel fuel, requiring fuel suppliers to purchase allowances to cover the emissions from the fossil fuel components of that fuel. **Proceeds from allowance auctions are projected to generate as much as \$89 million in the first year and \$1 billion in the first ten years, providing Connecticut with the revenue needed to decarbonize and modernize the transportation sector.**

Connecticut must reduce greenhouse emissions by 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050 to comply with the Connecticut Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) standards. The TCI-P would ensure at least a 26% reduction in carbon emissions from transportation from 2022 to 2032, helping the state to meet a significant portion of its greenhouse gas reduction goal.

Implementation of the TCI program is popular among state voters. According to DEEP, **81% of voters say it’s important for the state to reduce climate pollution and to increase clean, public transportation options.**

Any transportation reform in Connecticut must focus on equity. **The TCI-P plans to invest no less than 35% of annual proceeds to assist communities overburdened by pollution and underserved by the current transportation system.** Moreover, TCI-P establishes Equity Advisory Boards in Signatory Jurisdictions tasked with assessing the equity impacts of the program on an ongoing basis, notably by monitoring air quality in low-income and communities of color disproportionately affected by transportation pollution.

TCI-P envisions a solution that meets climate goals while providing net benefit to the economy, public health, and state infrastructure. CTLCV urges the committee to **SUPPORT SB 844** in order to ensure better quality air and transportation for all Connecticut residents, as well as meaningful reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

CTLCV

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For additional information on TCI-P view our [Briefing Paper](#) and [DEEP's webpage](#).