



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Testimony of the Council on Environmental Quality Regarding Governor's Bill 882

March 3, 2021

Co-chairs Needleman and Arconti and distinguished members of the Committee on Energy and Technology.

The Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (Council) supports the Governor's Bill 882 - An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability.

The Council supports a provision of the proposed Bill that would codify the goal, articulated in Executive Order Number 3, to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions for the electric sector in the State. Reduction of greenhouse gases across all sectors is necessary to reduce the State's contribution to climate change.

Since 2013, the State has procured significant Class I renewable resources and has entered into a long-term contract with Millstone Power for the continued production of energy. These procurements will eventually increase the amount of zero-emission energy capacity available for the State's residents and businesses. However, as detailed in the Council's Annual Report, [Environmental Quality in Connecticut](#), the amount of electricity generated by zero carbon capacity is less than half way to the target of 100 percent zero carbon generation (MWh) and has declined from 57.9 percent in 2001 to slightly more than 44 percent in 2020. The anticipated increases in electricity demand will make the goal of 100 percent zero carbon more challenging to achieve. Consequently, the Council also supports demand response and energy conservation measures like those proposed in the Bill.

The Council will make itself available to the Committee, upon request, to answer any questions or provide additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Hearn
Executive Director