

Subject: Connecticut Health and Climate Change

From: Huân M. Ngô, MS, PhD

To: Governor's Council on Climate Change

Sent as Public Comment at GC3 Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018

Dear Honorable members of the Governor's Council on Climate Change and DEEP Staff,

I am Huân Ngô, Ph.D., a scientist and resident of New Haven.

I submitted at the January 15 meeting that the Council should include public health and medical experts. At the minimal, your Connecticut Commissioner of Health should sit at your table.

It was also recommended that the Council examines the 2017 Lancet Report on Health & Climate Change published last October 30. <http://www.thelancet.com/climate-and-health>.

This Lancet Countdown is a global collaboration between 24 academic institutions and intergovernmental organizations. They advise we must include analysis on climate impacts, exposures and vulnerability of human health in Connecticut. Health effects and economic burdens should be in the final and/or future GC3 reports. The eight indicators are:

1. Health effects of temperature change
2. Health effects of heatwaves
3. Change in labor capacity
4. Lethality of weather-related disasters
5. Trends in climate-sensitive diseases
6. Climate-sensitive infectious diseases
7. Food security and undernutrition
8. Migration and population displacement

As visionary leaders of Connecticut, GC3 should start the awareness and preparation of our health response to climate change. Beyond mitigation strategy, DEEP and GC3 can work with Health departments, institutions and industry. We assess the adaptation planning and resilience for health in Connecticut when faced with future climate disruption and consequences. Such indicators are:

1. State adaptation plans for health
2. City-level climate change risk assessments
3. Detection and early warning of, preparedness for, and response to health emergencies
4. Climate information services for health
5. State assessment of vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation for health
6. Climate-resilient health infrastructure

Every Connecticut resident cares about three basic issues: their money, job and health. Climate disruptions will impact our health and healthcare costs.

I recommend that GC3 prepares for this crucial piece now before seeking supports from the public and legislators for your vision and plan.