

December 15, 2018

Commissioner Klee  
Governor's Council on Climate Change  
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: GC3 GHG Reductions Recommendation Report

Commissioner Klee and Members of the Council:

Thank you for your diligent work on this critical topic. As you are all well aware, latest IPCC report stated that we need to drop our CO2 emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees celsius, and emissions must drop to zero by 2050. Neither of these goals is reflected in the GC3 report. And cutting emissions by nearly half in 12 years requires drastic, emergency measures. In light of this, and the continuing emerging science (none of which shows any encouraging news), the recommendations outlined in this report, while well intentioned, do not go far enough. A few thoughts on implementation:

The truth is, in order to drastically cut our emissions, we need to change the status quo. The state of Connecticut won't just do the right thing with a little more education and a nudge. We just can't drive anytime we want, a reality that low income people have been living with forever. To make a dramatic difference, let's significantly expand public transit and make it free and electric. This would certainly help out with income disparities and give an incentive to wealthier folks to change their habits too. Another thought is to institute a ban on driving certain days of the week- some sort of road space rationing. That might be the stick to the free public transit carrot.

In addition, while EV ownership will continue to increase, and we do need to quickly add infrastructure to support that, I would encourage the public transit electrification first. Ultimately, we want more people using public transit than driving, so put the effort here.

I do not believe market incentives will be enough to make drastic changes in driving habits, either the number of miles driven, or the type of vehicle. The hybrid market has been around for many years, but has not taken over sales. GM has just announced that it's closing plants that manufacture sedans, in favor of SUVs. That tells us that regular folks are not getting the

message about driving more fuel efficient cars. We need a stick. One suggestion is to make sales of new 100% fossil fuel using cars, and/or low MPG new cars, illegal after say, 2023. The planet can no longer afford our use of these types of vehicles.

Regarding electric power generation, go all in on the utility-scale renewable technologies. Leave nuclear out of the equation. Get away from natural gas entirely. Methane is not our friend and the leaks from extraction and pipelines are more significant in the short term – which is the only term we have.

There are many, many good suggestions in this extensive report. I applaud your hard work and thank you for doing it. I am just concerned that without more drastic action, mandated from the top, we won't come close to the goals we need to achieve to save our species from extinction. I don't want my children to live increasingly difficult lives because we were too timid to do what needed to be done.

Thank you,

Susan C. Miller, member of 350 CT  
10 Ethan Drive  
Windsor, CT 06095