

Dear Ms. Enright-Kato,

Good morning! I am unable to attend this afternoon's public comment session as I will be at work, so I am sending my remarks now.

After reviewing the proposed strategies and recommendations, I found the document to provide no-brainer suggestions, but given the severity of the climate crisis we are facing, it does not go far enough, and from the scientific facts included in the packet, the Governor's Council on Climate Change *must* know this.

It might be nice for the State of Connecticut to examine its internal transportation policies. As a State employee myself, I have heard nothing about parking buy-outs or alternative transit passes available to employees who are car-free or wish to vary our commutes to reduce our negative impact on the environment; however, I am automatically provided with "free" parking in a garage downtown. As we know, nothing is free. This costs the State money to rent space from a garage. This does nothing for me as I do not use a car to get to work; instead, I walk, ride a bicycle, or take the city bus. Several of my colleagues are in the same position. It's not about the money, though. It's about a low-cost, easy way to compel a significant portion of Connecticut's commuting workforce out of single-occupancy vehicles. The State has the opportunity to lead by example.

Quite honestly, I am confused by segments of the document, as the proposal to "encourage, incentivize, and support alternative modes and active transportation that reduce single-occupant vehicle driving" is described as having a low impact on emissions reduction. That seems illogical. As I dug deeper into the proposal, I realized that the State is going all in for electric vehicles, claiming these would have a high impact on emissions reduction. How do you measure this?

I would like to see climate change to be treated with more urgency, and that requires Connecticut employees and residents to take hard and painful inventory of our own habits. Moving 25% of just State of Connecticut employees to sustainable modes -- bus, train, bicycle, or walking -- for commutes would show a more serious commitment to mitigating this enormous problem that my generation has inherited. Don't throw away your shot -- think past tomorrow.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Kerri Provost