

**To the members of the Governor's Council on Climate Change:**

**I am a resident of the sea-level town of Guilford, a member of Connecticut Sierra Club, and a professor of political science at Yale University. I am also the father of three young men who may well one day soon make me a grandfather. All of these things motivate and inform my stand against further promotion of fossil fuel production, transmission, and usage in Connecticut and elsewhere.**

**Not a climate or energy scientist, I am knowledgeable enough about the facts to be convinced that the preponderance of evidence speaks for extreme caution in use of dangerous fossil fuels. We should therefore be anything but cautious about changing direction entirely toward sustainable energy sources.**

**As a political scientist specializing in the study of the role of business interests in politics, I can speak with some authority about the role of special interests in environmental and as well as other policy making. I regret to have to conclude that such interests dominate today in Connecticut as elsewhere in pushing the development and use of natural gas as a so-called "bridge fuel" on the road to a world rescued from environmental catastrophe.**

**For a while it appeared to many people without a vested interest in the industry, including me, that the facts were on their side. Now that coalition of private and public interest is crumbling in the face of new facts emerging about everything from climate science to the facts on the ground about gas fracking and transmission. Thus I like many others am now utterly convinced that whatever the costs might be, it is absolutely necessary to turn away immediately from fossil fuel usage. The costs, it seems, might actually be relatively small, except for the special interests in gas usage. In the end, however this is not so much about short and medium term costs. It is a matter of life and death, if not for me, then for my future generations.**

**Sincerely,**

**Peter A. Swenson**

**CM Saden Professor**

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