



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Peter Hearn
Executive Director

March 8, 2022

Co-chairs Lemar and Haskell, Vice Chairs Cassano and Simms, Ranking Members Carney and Somers and other distinguished members of the Transportation Committee; Co-Chairs Cohen and Gresko, Vice Chairs Slap and Palm, Ranking Members Miner and Harding and other distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: Senate Bill 4 - An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act

Honorable members,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member council that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor, recommend actions to improve state environmental programs, advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects, and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

As noted in the Council's [Annual Report](#) for 2020, the transportation sector is estimated to have contributed approximately 38 percent of Connecticut's economy-wide emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). While there has been substantial growth in EVs in the state, it is unlikely that Connecticut will achieve the goal of 125,000 EVs by 2025 since there are currently only about 21,400 EVs registered in the state, which is less than two percent of all passenger vehicle registrations. Furthermore, there are only thirteen light duty EVs, of the more than 3,600 vehicles leased by Department of Administrative Services for state use. The state's EV adoption rate is only 0.36 percent, lagging behind the statewide EV adoption rate of 1.76 percent for 2021.

Significant reductions of GHG emissions are achievable by reducing the combustion of fossil fuels in the transportation sector, which will likely be achieved by increased fuel efficiency, use of mass transit, and use of EVs that operate on electricity or "green" hydrogen.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Hearn,
Executive Director