



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

February 14, 2023

Re: House Bill 6397 - An Act Concerning Zero Carbon Emissions

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board 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.

The Council **supports certain provisions** of House Bill 6397 that would leverage federal funding to achieve affordable zero-carbon electricity generation; provide economic development opportunities and training for clean energy sector jobs; and enhance community climate resiliency and environmental justice opportunities. As noted in the Council's most recent annual report, [Environmental Quality in Connecticut<sup>1</sup>](#), per-capita carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions increased in 2018 (most recent data available) and the state was not on track to achieve the 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. The Council also supports the establishment of the Citizens Oversight Working Group to ensure accountability and provide oversight related to compliance with applicable statutes and executive orders concerning climate change.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta,  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup>Council on Environmental Quality; <https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/AR-21-Gold/2021-CEQ-Annual-Report-eBook/Climate-Changers>