



**Testimony and notes re: CT’s next State Plan of Conservation & Development / HB 6647 —
AAC the State Plan of Conservation & Development**

NOTE: Difficult circumstances prevented the CT Energy Network from submitting this co-signed testimony until after HB 6647 was passed out of committee. The co-signers urge legislators, OPM, OLR, DEEP and other entities involved with the production of the 2025-2030 C&D Plan and all future Plans to incorporate the following recommendations into their work. The [IPCC report](#) that was released on March 20, 2023 compels CT to place the highest priority on GHG emissions reductions, and the State Plan is a key document that must reflect CT’s plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The undersigned believe that the current draft of HB 6647 is deficient in language that calls for the State POCD to better prioritize environmental protection. The degradation or impending collapse of too many of CT’s ecosystems; the increasing social and financial costs of climate change; and the very high prices of CT’s traditional energy sources compel us to submit the following recommendations.

1. The following text should become a new Sec. 1 (a) (1)

“The Plan shall set forth priorities for the protection of high-quality water, soil health, wildlife/wildlife habitat and other valuable natural resources that are subject to degradations due to climate change, pollution resulting from continued use of fossil fuels, and other threats.” (The current 1 (a) 1 should become 1 (a) (2), etc.)

2. The CT League of Conservation Voters, Rivers Alliance, Audubon CT, People’s Action for Clean Energy, CT Energy Network*, Wilton Go Green, Inc. and Sustainable Fairfield Task Force — all of which work on greenhouse gas reduction strategies — respectfully suggest that HB 6647 be revised with language that calls for a seventh Growth Management Principle to be added to the State Plan. The new chapter should be exclusively dedicated to provisions that will help all of CT’s jurisdictions collaborate and do their part to reduce CT’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Notes:

- *We suggest that a new working group of individuals with specific expertise in climate change and renewable energy should be convened soon, to support and assist OPM and the other entities that will be creating the draft Plan’s new content around climate, energy and environmental protection.*
- *The State’s next POCD (2025-2030) must provide meaningful, actionable and measurable climate- and clean energy-related benchmarks that will serve as templates for CT’s 169 municipalities and nine COGs to emulate and implement as they revise their own POCDs.*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on these critical matters.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown, CT League of Conservation Voters
Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance
Margaret Miner, Consultant
Robert LaFrance, Audubon CT
Bernard Pelletier, People’s Action for Clean Energy
Patrice Gillespie, CT Energy Network; Wilton Go Green, Inc.
Sustainable Fairfield Task Force

* The CT Energy Network is a group of volunteers who serve on their hometowns’ local energy task forces and sustainability teams. These volunteers often participate in the revisions of their respective municipal POCDs. Many have stated that their jurisdictions need exemplary, clear and actionable language in the State Plan that will serve to benefit CT’s environmental health in the years ahead. Each CT jurisdiction should take responsibility for its progress in reducing greenhouse gases.