

State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 25, 2019

Dear Governor Lamont:

The undersigned legislators write to congratulate you on Executive Order 3 which sets a goal of 100% zero carbon target for electricity by 2040 among other climate actions; we also write to express our concern about the Connecticut Siting Council's recent approval of a gas-fired power plant to be located in Killingly, Connecticut that will run well into 2040.

With the potential to emit more than 2.2 million tons per year of carbon dioxide (5 percent of Connecticut's total economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions), and the significant upstream climate impacts of extracting and transporting the gas to fuel it, this plant is also inconsistent with the state's Global Warming Solutions Act. In its final recommendations for Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030, the Governor's Council on Climate Change concludes that Connecticut will need to continue to decarbonize the electric grid, achieving at least 66 percent zero-carbon energy generation by 2030 and 84 percent carbon-free electric generation by 2050.

Based on recent developments, Connecticut is not on track to meet these critical objectives, and has made it difficult for the 2040 goal in Executive Order 3 to be attained. Between 2018 and 2019, Connecticut has added nearly 1,500 megawatts of new natural gas generation, representing approximately 15 percent of the state's total installed generating capacity. The climate impacts of this generation are even larger than emissions data show because significant quantities of climate-forcing methane gas is leaked in the extraction and transmission of the gas before it ever reaches Connecticut power plants. Now, another gas-fired plant has been approved.

Because of all these factors, we ask that you oppose the opening of the proposed plant and to require that all state agencies, offices, authorities, and divisions in considering and issuing permits, licenses, and other administrative approvals and decisions, to consider whether such decisions are inconsistent with or will interfere with the attainment of the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits established in the Global Warming Solutions Act and with the 2040 zero carbon goal of Executive Order 3.

Finally, we ask that you expedite the appointment of individuals to fill the three empty seats on the Siting Council. As you know, the Council is responsible for balancing the need for adequate and reliable public utility services at the lowest reasonable cost to

consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state. More than ever, the demands of ensuring this balance requires that the Siting Council be fully constituted and supported.

As always, we stand ready to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,



Raghieb Allie-Brennan, 2nd

Sen. Mae Flexer, 29th

Rep. Pat Boyd, 50th



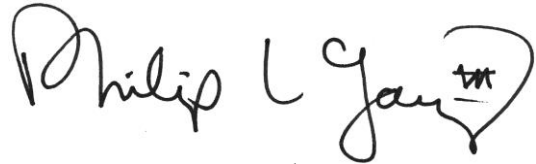
Sen. Will Haskell, 26th



Rep. Jane Garibay, 60th



Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th



Rep. Phil Young, 120th



Rep. Matt Blumenthal, 147th



Rep. Jill Barry, 31st



Rep. Lucy Dathan, 142nd



Rep. John Hampton, 16th



Rep. Gregg Haddad, 54th



Rep. Anne Hughes, 135th

Hilda E. Santiago, Kenneth M. Gucker

Rep. Hilda Santiago, 84th

Rep. Kenneth Gucker, 138th

Joseph P. Gresko

Rep. Joseph Gresko, 121st

Jonathan Steinberg

Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, 136th

Ron Napoli Jr.

Rep. Ron Napoli Jr., 73rd

Jason Doucette

Rep. Jason Doucette, 13th

Maria P. Horn

Rep. Maria Horn, 64th

Robin Comey

Rep. Robin Comey, 102nd

David Michel

Rep. David Michel, 146th

Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey, 133rd

Josh Elliot

Rep. Josh Elliot, 88th

Kerry Wood

Rep. Kerry Wood, 29th

Michael Winkler

Rep. Michael Winkler, 56th