



Dear Esteemed Members of the Environment Committee,

The Center for Biological Diversity is an international, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists, and approximately 17,437 Connecticut-based supporters, dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places. We **strongly urge the Joint Committee on Environment to support HB 5030**.

HB 5030 positions Connecticut as a leader in emissions reduction, by tracking food procured by the State and by establishing science-based reduction targets. As required by the Global Warming Solutions Act, the State is moving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. HB 5030 will significantly aid in this effort. To this end, the Connecticut Food Policy Council and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should set a minimum 25% emissions reduction goal to be achieved by 2030 (stepped up incrementally in mandatory reporting every three years).

As a science-driven organization, the Center recommends setting a strong food emissions reduction target. For example, the city of Carrboro, North Carolina has set a greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for consumption at 50% by 2025. In Denver, lifecycle emissions from food procurement accounted for 14% of overall emissions, nearly equal to emissions from residential energy and gasoline-powered vehicles.

Meeting food emissions targets is done with a shift toward plant-forward purchasing. The city of Santa Monica, California committed to a 15% reduction of meat and dairy procurement to meet its emissions targets. Meat and dairy production are responsible for at least 16% of global greenhouse gases, while a U.N. study found that the production, transport, and disposal of food account for 30% of all global greenhouse gas emissions. This fact has led states, municipalities and even national guidelines to include meat and dairy reductions as key factors in emissions reductions and sustainability policies. The Center strongly encourages the Committee to set meat reduction goals as part of its emissions targets for Connecticut. The 25% target for food emissions proposed in HB 5030 is achievable, and reasonable.

In addition to emissions reductions, HB 5030 would save money for taxpayers. By prioritizing plant-forward meals, municipalities and institutions have achieved not just environmental benefits but also economic ones. HB 5030 allows Connecticut to reduce emissions beyond energy sectors by attending to the significant emissions from food. By enacting HB 5030, Connecticut will be taking a monumental step towards reaching its emissions reduction targets.

With these efforts, Connecticut can more effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The **Center for Biological Diversity urges the Joint Committee on Environment to support HB 5030**. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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