



State of Connecticut

SENATOR KEVIN C. KELLY
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

21ST DISTRICT

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March 5, 2021

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
90 State House Square 10th Floor
Hartford, CT, 06103

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator
Colt Gateway
120 Huyshope Avenue, Suite 401
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative
First Congressional District
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States Representative
Second Congressional District
55 Main Street, Suite 250
Norwich, CT 06360

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States Representative
Third Congressional District
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510

The Honorable Jim Himes
United States Representative
Fourth Congressional District
350 Fairfield Ave. Suite 603
Bridgeport, CT 06604

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
United States Representative
Fifth Congressional District
108 Bank Street 2nd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Connecticut's Congressional Delegation:

First, I want to thank each of you for your service to our state and nation. I know that each of you are committed to advancing policies which make our air cleaner.

We are all familiar with the jet stream which carries weather systems from west to east due to the rotation of the earth. So, why am I bringing meteorology and prevailing wind patterns to your attention?

Because at the State Capitol, there is currently a debate over the Transportation and Climate Program Initiative (TCI-P). TCI-P would require higher taxes on Connecticut's middle class families. These higher taxes would be levied on Connecticut families even as states to our west are not moving forward with their own clean air reforms.

If Connecticut middle class families are going to be asked to make this financial sacrifice to achieve cleaner air, then states to our west should make the same commitment. Otherwise, we here in Connecticut would get nothing for our sacrifice. I am urging you, as Connecticut's delegation, to speak with one voice in urging that clean air policies be adopted by states to the west of Connecticut like New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

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Reforms made in those states will have a meaningful impact on our air and won't require increased gas taxes resulting in more burdens on Connecticut's middle class families. Without these actions, Connecticut's adoption of TCI-P will result in cleaner air for Rhode Island and over the Atlantic Ocean.

Should you not find success in convincing states to our west to make these reforms, then I believe other, more affordable solutions could also be pursued at the federal level which will help to improve our air and environment. For example, solutions aimed at reducing congestion along Interstate 95 and preserving open space will help move Connecticut toward the goal of reduced emissions without asking middle class families to make painful financial sacrifices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, thank you for your commitment to improving our environment, and thank you for speaking in a unified message on behalf of Connecticut residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin C. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "C".

Kevin C. Kelly
Senate Republican Leader

cc: Governor Ned Lamont
Paul Mounds, Governor's Chief of Staff