



Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
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RE: HB 6280, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Climate Change Superfund

Dear Senator Lopes, Rep Parker, Senator Hochadel, Rep. Bumgartner, and esteemed members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf *HB 6280, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Climate Change Superfund*. The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network is faith-based non-profit organization that works with religious communities on environmental issues such as climate change, toxic pollution, and biodiversity loss. We have helped hundreds of houses of worship across CT reduce their energy use through energy efficiency, install clean energy measures, such as solar, plant vegetable and pollinator gardens, reduce single-use plastic, and eliminate toxic cleaning chemicals.

Religious communities take action for a variety of reasons, but the primary reason is their faith. Every faith tradition talks about the importance of being faithful stewards of the planet and of caring for all of its inhabitants. Sadly, the environment has become a political issue, even though there is nothing political about clean air, clean water, or clean land. There is nothing political about losing your home to a flood, hurricane, or wildfire. IREJN supports HB 6280 because it will create a Superfund that will help Connecticut address climate change and adapt protective strategies.

In 2023, the US had 28 extreme weather events that cost \$1B each – the highest number in history. In 2024, the August 18-19 flood devastated portions of southwestern CT. Federal assistance totaled more than \$6M in federal assistance, while homeowner insurance claims were almost \$2.5M. As the federal government seeks to dismantle FEMA and other aid programs, CT will need to financially prepare for climate change.

Establishing a Climate Change Superfund is a wise decision that will help CT adapt to climate change. We urge you to pass HB 6280, An Act Establishing a Climate Change Superfund.

Thank you for your time.

Very best regards,

Terri Eickel, Executive Director