



It's Easy! How You Can Make a Difference in Sustainable Policy in CT

Your elected officials want to hear what matters to you! Because your representatives listen and track the topics their constituents care about, you can have a big impact in shaping the laws that affect your community. Legislators review hundreds of bills during a session that impact everything from environmental policy to education and public health. By staying informed and actively participating in the legislative process, you help ensure that your concerns and values are represented and the bills you support make it to the finish line. Here's a simple guide to tracking a bill, voicing your support or opposition, and engaging with your representatives. It can take just a minute or two!

How to Find a Bill in the CT State Legislature

1. **Go to the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) Website [here](#)**
 2. **Use the Bill Search Tool in the Upper Right Corner: Enter the Bill number in the pop up bill in the bottom of the page. Or, click on "Bill Info" and enter the bill number, keyword, or topic.**
 3. **Check the Bill Status:** See the bill's text, sponsors, committee assignments, and its movement through the legislative process.
 4. **Track the Bill:** Click "Bill Tracking" to receive email updates.
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How to Advocate For or Against a Bill

- **Contact Your Legislators:**

- Find your state senator and representative [here](#).
- Call, email, or meet with them to express your views.

STATE SENATOR RYAN FAZIO

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- **Submit Written Testimony:**

- Legislators look at the number of testimonies of support or opposition. So, even a single sentence of support or opposition can make a difference.
- To create a testimony, draft a letter to the Committee including the bill number, your stance and if possible a short paragraph about why it matters to you and your personal experience. Save it as a **PDF format**. For inspiration, you can click on the **“Public Hearing Testimony”** tab in the lower right to view other testimony. To submit your testimony, find the committee considering the bill by clicking on **“Committees”** on the front page or [HERE](#) for public hearing dates and testimony submission instructions. The deadline to send a “testimony” or statement of support is usually **by 3:00 the day before the public hearing**.

- A drop down bar will show the hearing date and the bills being reviewed in the hearing. Select the bill you want to speak about and ensure you toggle whether you are in support or oppose the bill. Upload your testimony and make sure to send a copy of your testimony individually to our Greenwich delegation ([Contact Link](#)) asking them to support your position. After the hearing, track your bill to find out if it is “out of committee” which means it is waiting for leadership to call your bill to the floor. Many bills stall at this point because there is internal or external opposition or fiscal cost estimates that have not been resolved or approved. Until negotiations or compromises are found, the bill will not make it to the floor. You can help by emailing or calling your representatives (calls are generally left as messages for clerks to pass on) and ask for this bill to be “called” (or not if you oppose).
- **Testify at a Public Hearing:** Register in advance (committee websites will provide details). Prepare a short, clear statement (2-3 minutes). Testifying in person or by zoom has a big impact.
- **Join Advocacy Groups:**
 - Join the many organizations such as the Greenwich Sustainability Committee or state groups such as the Sierra Club or CTLCV to learn, track bills, receive action alerts, attend events or join trips with other advocates to testify at the Capitol.
- **Use Social Media & Letters to the Editor:**
 - Spread awareness and encourage others to take action. Your voice matters!

By participating in the legislative process, you play a direct role in shaping Connecticut's future. Your involvement can influence policies that protect the environment, improve public services, and uphold the values you care about.