



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT**
HB 6814 AAC THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CODING SYSTEM FOR THE
DESIGNATION OF RECYCLABLE AND COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

March 10, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 6814 which will help clarify what can and cannot be recycled.

Only 9% of the plastics produced in the United States are properly recycled.

The plastics industry is not showing any signs of slowing down production, so we must help citizens recycle what they can while we work to transition away from plastic to more environmentally friendly products and packaging. It is not surprising that the American Chemistry Council/Plastics Division and the American Institute for Packaging are opposed to this initiative.

A clear, standardized coding system on products will also help consumers to selectively purchase recyclable and compostable items.

This could also incentivize businesses to reduce the plastic in their packaging as more and more environmentally conscious shoppers opt for products that are easiest to recycle or compost.

Just because a container has a triangular arrow logo and a number inside it does not mean it can be recycled. The lack of clarity is contributing to the contamination of our recycled products, which lowers their value and makes municipalities less likely to continue to offer recycling programs.

Passage of HB 6814 is a necessary remedy for the confusion that our current system has caused. Every bit we can recycle helps reduce our growing waste crisis.

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