



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT:**

SB 100 AAC AN ACCOUNT IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE GRANTS
TO TOWNS THAT NEED PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION.

February 15, 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, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 100. While we support this legislation as an important step to fund testing and remediation of PFAS contamination, **we ask that you include provisions that will help stop the cause of the contamination.**

Many states, including New York and California, are restricting consumer products containing PFAS—like carpets, rugs, textiles, cleaning products and cosmetics. Maine went further and did a categorical ban, giving their environmental agency the authority to determine which products contain PFAS and ban their sale in the state.

Connecticut should do the same. Many retailers are already moving away from using PFAS in these product categories but state laws assure that we are rapidly shifting the marketplace and protecting residents and our environment. Testing of sites and remediation across Connecticut are also critical. We must assure that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health have on-going funding to achieve this goal.

We must do more to “turn off the tap” of these highly toxic chemicals.

PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances) are linked to testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, hormone disruption, increases in cholesterol, thyroid disruption, asthma, reproductive disorders including infertility, low birth weight, and decreased response to vaccines at levels in the parts per trillion.

PFAS are known as forever chemicals because they don’t break down, even during incineration.

Despite these dangers, many consumer products continue to be made with PFAS chemicals to make the product stain or grease resistant, water-repellent and anti-stick. PFAS in consumer products not only expose consumers but contaminate the environment at the end of their use. Connecticut became a national leader in 2021 when PFAS were banned in firefighting foam and food packaging—two major sources of contamination.

Did you know...

- Nearly every American has PFAS in their body. They are found in blood, breast milk, and even umbilical cord blood of newborn babies.
- 250,000 people have PFAS in their drinking water
- Scientists from around the world are calling on governments to eliminate the entire class of PFAS where possible due to the significant human health and environmental impacts.
- A 2022 U.N. Human Rights Commission report urged countries to ban all uses of PFAS.
- Fish in the Farmington and Hockanum river have been found to have PFAS—requiring fish consumption advisories.

CTLCV urges you to support and strengthen SB 100 to be effective at eliminating the sources of toxic PFAS. Thank you.

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