



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF**
SB 118 AAC USE OF CERTAIN POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS
February 22, 2022

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

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

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 118 An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Polystyrene Products. This bill would prohibit the use of single-use, polystyrene containers by restaurants and caterers, and polystyrene trays by schools and institutions.

Single-use polystyrene products are rarely biodegradable and can remain in the environment years after they are discarded by the consumer. These products are also not recyclable, so they go to landfills and incinerators where they continue to degrade Connecticut's already poor air quality. Due to the placement of our state's trash-to-energy facilities, the brunt of this pollution falls disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color.

Additionally, single-use polystyrene products pose serious threats to marine ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. Birds and aquatic animals are at risk for starvation or poisoning from ingesting these harmful materials. Because polystyrene is not biodegradable, the fragmented microplastics can accumulate in environments where humans may eventually ingest them too, posing additional health risks. Styrene and benzene, chemicals found in polystyrene, have been identified as **carcinogens** by the Department of Health and Human Services. It is imperative that these chemicals stay out of our water, food, and airways.

CTLCV acknowledges the damage that single-use polystyrene containers have on the environment and public health. We urge the committee to support SB 118 and further phase out these products. Thank you.

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