



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF SJ 193**
RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS
March 13, 2024

To: Honorable Co-Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee

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

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SJ 193** to ensure the protection of CT resident's right to a healthy environment in the state constitution, ensuring that *all* communities in CT have equal rights to clean air, soil, and water.

While we have major environmental laws at the state level and the national level, there is no statement of environmental rights in the CT Constitution. CTLCV supports this effort to strengthen the way our state handles pollution, environmental degradation, and the protection of environmental justice communities.

The addition of the Environmental Rights Amendment to our state constitution **puts the focus on environmental protection at the planning and decision-making stages of state and local government** and will work to reduce the damages of climate change on communities. Additionally, SJ 193 will aid in situations where the state government may claim to lack clarity or authority to address environmental problems, as this bill will fill in the gaps of current environmental law.

SJ 193 will outline a clear constitutional duty on all government officials to protect our environment for all communities. This amendment will create a constitutional mandate so that each person, regardless of where they live, has a right to clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment.

We fully support adding an Environmental Rights Amendment to our state Constitution. SJ 193 will benefit the public health, safety, and welfare for the people of Connecticut. Everyone deserves the right to a healthy environment. Thank you for considering these comments.