



TESTIMONY REGARDING **SB 290**

AAC MINOR REVISIONS TO ENVIRONMENT RELATED STATUTES
March 8, 2024

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

From: Julianna Larue, Climate Policy and Outreach Coordinator,
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony requesting the following changes to **Senate Bill 290**:

1) Add language to SB 290 that will repeal Section 191 of Public Act 23-205.

Section 191 created a carve-out for distressed municipalities with under 10,000 residents that would leave them exposed to polluting projects, even if DEEP had already denied the permit. Such a provision is discriminatory to small working-class communities and should be overturned to better protect these communities. We hope legislators will adopt policies to protect against negative environmental statutes that will harm environmental justice efforts

2) Reject the proposed language that would codify the confusing deposit refund value label on beverage containers.

CTLCV is concerned about the proposed language change in Section 1 of SB 290, which affects bottle deposit labeling. The use of abbreviations like "**CTRV**" are confusing to the consumer regarding the refund value (or if there *is* a refund in Connecticut) leading to a reduction in the amount of bottles recycled. With Connecticut's recent increase in the bottle deposit refund to ten cents aimed at bolstering recycling efforts, this bill could have the opposite effect and undermine the state's progress to improve recycling rates.

We urge you to adopt the requested amendments so that Connecticut may advance environmental justice for its state residents, and that bottle deposit language clearly show the 10 cent refund value to further increase state recycling, and not allow "CTRV" to suffice.