



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF
HB 6485 An Act Concerning Natural Organic Reduction And Green Burials
February 27, 2022

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

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of HB 6485**. There are important reasons why NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION should be permitted in our state for environmental, personal, and economic reasons.

The practice of natural body composting, also known as **Terremation**, involves washing the corpses, wrapping them in natural linen shrouds, and covering them with wood chips, flowers, and other natural materials.

The positive effects on the environment are significant:

- Natural Organic Reduction has a lower carbon footprint because it does not produce CO2 emissions from cremation. In contrast, each **cremation can emit 564 lbs. of carbon dioxide** due to the burning of natural gas.
- There would be no **hazardous embalming chemicals** released into the environment that contaminate our soil, air, and water.
- Traditional burial practices in the U.S. include the use of wood or metal caskets, concrete vaults, headstones, grave liners, and other items. Each year, the U.S. uses **4 million acres of woods just for caskets**. Terremation produces only soil that can be used in a garden or other natural environment.

On a personal note, I don't want my last impact on earth to be pollution, wasted land, and cost my family a lot of money.

I want to give back to our environment through Natural Organic Reduction, providing useful soil to further feed the ecosystem. Without this option in my home state of CT, my remains would have to be shipped at great expense to another state that allows this natural burial process.

The opposition to this end-of-life option is mostly based on religious concerns and historic racial injustices regarding burials. But this is entirely optional and with many guardrails to address concerns about the process. It is being done in several other states and it is **supported by CT's funeral industry as a choice that more and more people are asking for.**

Death is not an easy subject to discuss objectively. Please look at the facts and allow this completely natural process to be an option in our state. Thank you.

CT League of Conservation Voters
553 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
ctlcv.org | ctlcv@ctlcv.org