



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **HB 5288**  
AN ACT CONCERNING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL  
SUBSTANCES

March 6, 2020

**To:** Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Abrams and Rep. Steinberg and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee

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

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5288, AAC PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—more commonly referred to as **PFAS**—are **toxic chemicals found in an alarming number of everyday products**, including Class B Firefighting Foam.

The horrific Bradley Airport plane crash in October 2019 used **25,000 gallons of Class B firefighting foam, which spilled PFAS chemicals into the Farmington River.** The presence of these PFAs in firefighting foam poses serious risks to health and wildlife. Because the foam itself cannot be contained to a designated area once dispensed, the PFAs present in firefighting foam seep into and contaminate the surrounding environment. This chemical contamination is concerning not only to the natural environment, but also to the health and wellness of residents statewide.

PFAS have become a significant contaminant in our drinking water because of their continued use in firefighting foam and similar everyday materials. In 2015, a **Harvard University determined the drinking water in 6 million households in America were contaminated with PFAS at levels exceeding federally recommendations.** Additionally, PFAS chemicals have been found in 97% of human blood samples. This cannot stand.

**Bill HB 5288 would prohibit the use of PFAs in firefighting foam** and mandate that these chemicals not be used by any individual or government entity. This is crucial to discontinue the use of these harmful chemicals in our everyday safety products.

HB 5288 would also implement a **plan to test our water supplies and bottled water for toxic PFA substances.** The vital process would uphold a key health standard for all of Connecticut state residents and ensure that our water supplies are free from these harmful chemicals.

**CTLCV strongly urges you to vote YES on Bill 5288** concerning the use of PFAs. This bill is crucial in protecting the natural environment and residents' health and safety throughout Connecticut.

Sincerely,  
Lori Brown  
Executive Director

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