



TESTIMONY IN RESPONSE TO HB 5291
AN ACT LIMITING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL
SUBSTANCES AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE IN FOOD PACKAGING

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 response to **HB 5291, AA LIMITING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE IN FOOD PACKAGING.**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—more commonly referred to as **PFAS**—are **toxic chemicals found in an alarming number of everyday products.** Many of these PFAs have also been found in **plastic-based food packaging, and these chemicals pose a serious risk to consumers.**

The extended use of chemicals such as Perfluoroalkyl, Polyfluoroalkyl, and Polystyrene in our everyday products **is a serious threat to our health and wellness.** These chemicals have been linked to **serious health complications** such as testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, hormone disruption, increases in cholesterol, thyroid disruption, asthma, reproductive disorders including infertility, low birth weight and decreased response to vaccines.

As it stands, HB 5291 would call for an examination of 18 reasonable alternatives for PFAs in plastic packages. **This bill needs to be amended to remove the expectations for the Department of Public Health to provide alternatives to expanded polystyrene food packaging.** Alternatives already exist. Extra steps for the Department of Public Health to identify those alternatives is costly and unnecessary.

There is no safe use of PFAs in our household products. HB 5291 needs to mandate the removal of PFAs from plastic packaging immediately in order to protect the safety of consumers statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in response to HB 5291.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown
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