



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HB 5341**  
**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND BREEDING OF CERTAIN CETACEANS**

March 3, 2020

**To:** Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment 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 5341** to protect certain marine mammals.

Dolphins, porpoises, and whales are vital animals in our marine ecosystem. Without these keystone species, entire food webs and ecosystems can be thrown off, impacting every corner of the world.

After the public outcry surrounding the documentary, *Blackfish*, which broadcasted the abusive realities for many Orca whales in captivity, similar laws have been passed nationwide in support of these marine mammals. Connecticut must join the ongoing effort to keep these animals protected from abuse.

Connecticut has already shown commitment to the welfare of these species by including protections in the 2019 offshore wind legislation, now PA 19-71. We can now show leadership by continuing our support for these critical species with additional protective measures.

**We urge you to vote YES on HB 5341** to ensure the ethical treatment of certain aquatic mammals in the state. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown  
Executive Director  
CTLCV  
553 Farmington Avenue, Suite 201 Hartford, CT 06105  
ctlcv.org | [ctlcv@ctlcv.org](mailto:ctlcv@ctlcv.org)