



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of **HB 5344**  
AN ACT PROHIBITING OFF-SHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN CONNECTICUT

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 5344** to restrict offshore drilling of oil and gas in Connecticut.

Connecticut's coastlines are an invaluable resource for the state and its residents, and must be protected from further degradation. **Offshore drilling is one of the most extractive, energy intensive and environmentally-destructive industries in the nation.** Offshore drilling sacrifices our ecosystem and increasingly endangered wildlife for the sole benefit of the fossil fuel industry—an industry that has no interest in our state's environmental values and aggressively seeks to undermine our efforts to achieve Connecticut's clean energy goals.

Connecticut has already begun the transition towards clean energy and has proven to be a leader with the 2019 offshore wind procurement legislation, PA 19-71. **It's time to simultaneously limit the growth of dirty fossil fuel industries that degrade our environment and endanger our public health.** Our clean energy commitments will not make a difference in mitigating climate impacts if we continue to pollute in other areas. We cannot let offshore drilling stand in the way of a growing clean energy economy and we certainly don't need to tolerate the risk of an oil spill disaster off our shores.

Long Island Sound is a key resource for Connecticut and the region. The Sound provides a robust economy through recreation, industry, and natural aesthetic. A ban on offshore drilling is critical to preserving the environmental and cultural aspects of the Sound.

**We urge you to vote YES on HB 5344** to restrict the expansion of fossil fuels 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  
ctlev.org | ctlev@ctlev.org