



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **HB 5385**
AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

March 7, 2019

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT of HB 5385**, An Act Requiring the Elimination of Single-Use Plastic Straws.

The time has come to eliminate single-use plastic straws. Like other single-use plastic products, straws are typically used for a matter of minutes, but they can damage our environment for thousands of years. These plastics are not typically recycled, and too often pollute our waterways, clog our sewers, and threaten our wildlife when ingested. Even in landfills, they degrade over hundreds of years, and can contribute to toxic fumes at waste-to-energy plants.

Unlike some soft plastics, plastic straws are rejected from recycling plants due to their tendency to get stuck in machinery. Therefore, discarded plastic straws at best end up in our landfills, and at worse pollute our communities, waterways, and environment.

There are biodegradable and sustainable alternatives to plastic straws. As we move away from single-use plastics and increase the demand for these alternatives, production costs for these environmentally friendly options will fall.

New York, California, and New Jersey, along with the cities of Seattle, Oakland and San Francisco, have implemented some form of a single-use plastic straw ban. Internationally, England, the European Union, Taiwan, and Vancouver—as well as an increasing number of private companies like Starbucks and McDonald’s—have banned single-use plastic straws. Connecticut should build on this growing momentum to “stop the suck” and end plastic pollution. On behalf of the CT League of Conservation Voters, I strongly urge you to **VOTE YES ON HB 5385**.

Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Brown".

Lori Brown
Executive Director
CTLCV

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