



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF**
HB 5140 AAC THE HAND-HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS

February 22, 2022

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, 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 5140, An Act Concerning the Hand-Harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs in the State. This bill would prohibit the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs and horseshoe crab eggs from the waters and shorelines in order to protect the horseshoe crab population.

[Connecticut's horseshoe crab population has seen a steep decline over the last 15 years.](#) The harvesting and poaching of these ancient species impacts the populations of shorebirds that rely on horseshoe crab eggs for sustenance. In order to maintain our state's vibrant shoreline ecosystem, we must limit the harvesting of horseshoe crabs.

Humans harvest these animals for many different reasons. Commercial fishers use horseshoe crabs as bait for whelk and eels, and biomedical researchers use horseshoe crab blood for important vaccine research. The bill includes a provision for blood collection so that horseshoe crabs are returned, unharmed, to the waters from which they came.

The Connecticut shoreline's diverse wildlife is important to our larger ecosystem. We urge the committee to support HB 5140 and protect Connecticut's horseshoe crab population. Thank you for your consideration.

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