



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF HJ 53**
RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE ADOPTION OF THE
LONG ISLAND SOUND BLUE PLAN

February 8, 2021

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

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of HJ 53** to adopt the Long Island Sound Blue Plan.

Long Island Sound is the Northeast's largest estuary and includes some of the Earth's most productive natural habitats. **The Sound is important to more than 20 million people who live within 50 miles and generates billions annually for local economies through tourism, fishing and other uses.**

Without the Long Island Sound Blue Plan, the state has no authority to adequately plan for multiple future uses of the Sound, whether they be recreational, industrial, or developmental. The Blue Plan incorporates **the contributions of nearly 2,000 individuals** from conservation, business, recreation, government, Native American tribes and the public. Additionally, with investments in offshore wind rapidly increasing throughout the region Connecticut needs to be able to plan for transmission of clean energy. It is imperative that the committee pass the Long Island Sound Blue Plan to proactively protect Long Island Sound while preserving traditional uses, maritime beauty, and environmental values.

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