



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB 926
AAC The Presence of PFAS in Certain Consumer Packaging
March 19, 2021

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, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 926** to ban the sale of consumer products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

According to the Center for Disease Control, **PFAS are strongly linked to testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, hormone disruption, increases in cholesterol, thyroid disruption, asthma, reproductive disorders including infertility, low birth weight, and decreased response to vaccines.** Despite these dangers, PFAS continues to be used in nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, products that resist grease, water and oil, food packaging and food service ware.

There are more than 4,700 PFAS in use today, and their prevalence has caused pollution at 1,398 sites in 49 states, including Connecticut. **PFAS have been found in the tap water of millions of homes across the United States.** Furthermore, the United States Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) found that PFAS were more harmful than previously thought and that **supposed "safe levels" were 10 times less than previously thought.**

PFAS are called **"Forever Chemicals"** because they do not break down easily and remain in the environment and the human body for years. PFAS can leak out of landfills or industrial sites, endangering entire populations. As PFAS build up in the environment, future generations risk exposure at higher levels than today.

Additionally, **packaging is often single use, adding to our waste crisis.** Since PFAS chemicals are not fully destroyed during incineration, they end up in soil, water and are mobile, often spreading contamination for miles.

It is time for Connecticut to stop contamination at the source and ban consumer products that contain these toxic chemicals. SB 926 is a critical way to "turn off the tap" of these chemicals that harm health and the environment. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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