



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF SB 292**
AAC THE USE OF PFAS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS.
March 7, 2024

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 292** to stop the sources of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl chemicals also known as PFAS.

PFAS contamination is spreading throughout our communities, polluting our water, soil, and plants, and ultimately impacting wildlife and humans.

Many states, including New York and California, are restricting consumer products containing PFAS—like carpets, rugs, textiles, cleaning products and cosmetics. Maine went further and did a categorical ban, giving their environmental agency the authority to determine which products contain PFAS and ban their sale in the state. It is time for Connecticut to follow the same path.

Many retailers are already moving away from products that contain PFAS, but passing the provisions outlined in SB 292 assures that Connecticut will be more rapidly shifting the marketplace to protect our residents from exposure to these dangerous substances.

Testing of sites and remediation across Connecticut is critical to addressing the devastating health and environmental impacts of PFAS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health must have steady funding to help achieve this goal.

However, the most important step right now is to stop PFAS at the source. **We must do more to “turn off the tap” that is saturating our environment with these highly toxic chemicals.** PFAS are linked to testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, hormone disruption, increases in cholesterol, thyroid disruption, asthma, reproductive disorders, infertility, low birth weight, and can do damage at very low levels of parts per trillion.

PFAS are known as 'forever chemicals' because they don't break down, even during incineration, and there is no safe way to dispose of products with PFAS.

Despite these dangers, many consumer products continue to be made with PFAS chemicals to make the product stain or grease resistant, water-repellent, and anti-stick.

Connecticut became a national leader in 2021 when PFAS were banned in firefighting foam and food packaging—two major sources of contamination. In 2023, Connecticut allocated funding for the testing of PFAS in drinking water supplies. Connecticut must take further decisive action by addressing the root cause of PFAS contamination. SB 292 will go a long way towards eliminating many more of these contaminated products from sale in Connecticut and increase testing of our waters.

Did you know...

- Nearly every American has PFAS in their body. They are found in blood, breast milk, and even umbilical cord blood of newborn babies.
- 250,000 people have PFAS in their drinking water.
- Scientists from around the world are calling on governments to eliminate the entire class of PFAS where possible due to the significant human health and environmental impacts.
- A 2022 U.N. Human Rights Commission report urged countries to ban all uses of PFAS.
- Fish in the Farmington and Hockanum rivers have been found to have PFAS— requiring fish consumption advisories.

Thank you for considering this information as you deliberate the importance of the legislation.

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