



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF  
HB 6606 AAC THE USE OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS MADE FROM POLYSTYRENE.  
February 14, 2023

**To:** Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, 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 comment **in support of HB 6606** to eliminate the use of school trays made from polystyrene and restrict the use of certain polystyrene food containers by restaurants.

Single-use polystyrene containers clog our landfills, threaten wildlife, and are a common source of litter in our waterways, urban areas, and parks. When polystyrene breaks down, it fragments into little pieces that can be consumed by fish and endanger animals up and down the food chain.

Recycling facilities have found that polystyrene is a challenge since it is frequently tainted with food waste and is difficult to reuse or recycle. **In Connecticut, there isn't a single recycling facility that will accept polystyrene waste.** Therefore, it becomes necessary to continually produce new polystyrene for single-use needs.

Furthermore, Polystyrene is made with petroleum, and generates a significant amount of greenhouse emissions during its production. Styrene and benzene, chemicals found in Polystyrene, have been identified as carcinogens by the Department of Health and Human Services. It is imperative that these chemicals stay out of our water, food, and airways.

Single-use Polystyrene products are rarely biodegradable and can remain in the environment years after the consumer discards them. Because these products are also not recyclable, they go to landfills and incinerators where they continue to degrade Connecticut's already poor air quality.

**The good news is that there are biodegradable alternatives to Polystyrene.** Numerous ecologically friendly choices are available including starch, bamboo, and other biodegradable materials. Connecticut can combat plastic pollution prohibiting polystyrene products, including wasteful food service packaging, school lunch trays, and packaging peanuts.



CTLCV urges you to support HB 6606 to help reduce our growing waste problem and to mitigate the many harms this product causes. For more information, please follow the link or the QR code to [CTLCV's Briefing Paper](#) on the problem and solutions to polystyrene waste.