



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT of SB 292**
AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS AND PESTICIDE
REGULATION IN THE STATE

March 3, 2020

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and 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 SB 292** to expand the state's pesticide tracking system.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) currently uses an outdated paper filing system for applicator certifications, which makes it impossible to get real-time updates and access to accurate information about pesticide use in our state.

It is increasingly acknowledged that pesticides and chemicals pose significant health threats to humans and wildlife. Yet, they are poorly monitored or regulated as the types and classes of these toxic chemical continue to increase. To protect public health we need to ensure complete, easily accessible documentation of these toxic chemicals.

SB 292 is a start, but we recommend the committee include additional steps. According to a 2017 report by the CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), **enforcement and inspections for pesticide use in our state have fallen to a 15-year low**. This is unacceptable. We must drastically reform our pesticide tracking system and ensure that DEEP has the resources to maintain it.

Last year, HB 5999 An Act Concerning Pesticide Regulation was voted out of the Environment Committee as well as the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee without any adjustments. HB 5999 would have dedicated certain funds specifically for use by the pesticide program as well as establish a "Pesticide Enforcement Account" to support inspection and enforcement activities.

SB 292 should include the CEQ recommendations that failed to make it over the finish line in 2019. **This legislation needs to create a dedicated pesticide program fund, establish an electronic filing system, reinstate the environmental monitoring program, and close online purchasing loopholes for restricted-use pesticides.** If taken, these steps will ensure protection for our most vulnerable residents and wildlife.

It is time for Connecticut to put public health before chemical industry interests. CTLCV urges the committee to **SUPPORT SB 292**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown, Executive Director

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