



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF SB 588**
AN ACT PROHIBITING OFF-SHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN CONNECTICUT

March 15, 2019

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

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT OF SB 588**, An Act Prohibiting Off-Shore Drilling for Oil and Gas in Connecticut.

In 2018, the Trump administration authorized offshore drilling and seismic surveys on the Atlantic seaboard—a **practice that has repeatedly come under fire for its damaging effects to our ocean ecosystems**. A threat to our marine life is also a threat to our fishing and tourism industries, and offshore drilling also poses considerable risks to public health.

Oil spills are a significant risk in any drilling operation, and they pose a huge threat to Connecticut's coastal communities. Access to clean water and healthy beaches are critical to coastal businesses, but **oil spills can contaminate our water and kill marine life**. Oil exposure has also been linked to neurological, respiratory, and developmental issues, especially in children.

Offshore drilling also requires seismic surveys—firing blasts of compressed air into the sea, which then bounce back to them, revealing the location of oil and gas deposits. The sounds emitted by these surveys confuse animals who communicate through similar methods, and can lead to permanent hearing damage for others. These effects lead to changes in fish migration patterns, which can both destabilize the ecosystem and negatively affect the fishing industry.

Governors of Atlantic seaboard states have expressed strong opposition to offshore drilling. From Florida to Maryland to Connecticut, there is strong consensus that **offshore drilling poses more risks than benefits to both our environment and our economy**.

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, I urge you to **SUPPORT SB 588**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Brown".

Lori Brown
Executive Director
CTLCV

553 Farmington Avenue, Suite 201 Hartford, CT 06105

www.ctlcv.org | ctlcv@ctlcv.org