



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF SB 80**  
AAC THE BURNING OF MEDICAL WASTE  
January 29, 2025

**To:** Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

**From:** Connor Yakaitis, Deputy Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of SB 80**. This critical legislation would close a loophole that currently allows an incinerator to burn medical waste without adhering to the federal standards established for medical waste incinerators.

Medical waste contains a significant amount of materials, including plastics, that release highly toxic emissions when burned. These emissions—such as dioxins, PFAS, and heavy metals—accumulate in the environment and in our bodies, leading to severe and often fatal health conditions, including cancer, organ damage, cardiovascular and neurological diseases, immune and endocrine system disorders, and developmental and reproductive problems.

Recognizing these serious risks, the EPA strengthened emissions limits for medical waste incineration in 2013. These science-based standards have been successfully implemented nationwide, ensuring safer waste disposal and reducing harmful pollution.

Despite these protections, Reworld, Inc. is seeking approval to establish the largest medical waste incineration facility in the Northeast at its Bristol location. Alarming, current state regulations do not require this facility to comply with federal medical waste incineration standards, putting public health and the environment at significant risk.

Senate Bill 80 is essential to ensuring that all medical waste incinerators in our state meet federal safety standards. We urge you to support this bill to protect our communities, our air, and our health from unnecessary and preventable toxic exposure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.