



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF**
SB 1147 AAC The Environmental Justice Program of the Department of
Energy and Environmental Protection
March 6, 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: Julianna Larue, Climate Policy and Outreach Coordinator, CT League of
Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of SB1147**. We recommend that the bill be strengthened by requiring the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Siting Council to **consider both current and future cumulative polluting effects on the air, water, land and quality of life** of vulnerable populations when issuing permits for polluting facilities.

Communities of color face disproportionate exposure to pollution. Big polluters like refineries, factories, landfills and factory farms have been routinely built in non-white communities, exposing their residents to elevated health risks. The approval of hazardous facilities, such as power plants, sewage treatment facilities, and trash incinerators impacts public health in all communities. These facilities are often concentrated in low wealth urban communities and communities of color of all income levels.

According to the most recent CDC asthma data, 13.4% of black children have asthma compared to 7.8% of white children who have asthma. Among Latinx groups, 11% of Puerto Rican children have asthma, the highest among their group. There is no coincidence of these numbers; people of color are more likely to suffer from asthma compared to white people. In Connecticut there are over 600 potential pollution sources in each of our five major metropolitan towns: Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford and Waterbury. These five towns combined contain 71% of Connecticut's minority population. New Haven has the highest percentage of hospitalizations due to asthma related emergencies. Our racial inequality crisis is intertwined with our climate crisis. If we don't work on both, we will succeed at neither.

CTLCV urges you to support SB 1147 to strengthen existing laws and ensure that DEEP and the Siting Council deny new Affecting Facility-related permits in already overburdened communities. Passage of this bill will benefit our entire state. Thank you.

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