Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut’s waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state’s many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

To: Sen. Ted Kennedy Jr., Sen. Craig Miner, Rep. Mike Demicco, Chairmen; And Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

Rivers Alliance strongly supports this bill. The horseshoe crab species is 450 million years old -- or older. The Atlantic horseshoe crab used to be extremely common along all the saltwater beaches in our region -- New York and New England. They are rapidly disappearing. The cause may be habitat destruction, climate warming, pollution, or overuse by humans as bait. They are true blue bloods, literally. Their blood is blue because it contains copper. Instead of the iron and hemoglobin that we have, horseshoe crabs have copper and hemocyanin, which is blue.) More important their blood is highly valued in the medical industry because it contains a special kind of immune cells that can be used to detect toxins from bacteria. Thus the sterility of medical devices can be tested. Worldwide, horseshoe crabs are harvested, bled, and returned to the sea. Most survive this service to humanity, but not all.

Thank you for attention to this ancient species.

Margaret Miner,
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