

Dear Environment Committee member,

I am writing in support of three specific bills that I believe will improve Long Island Sound's ecosystem.

1. I support passage of SB 426—AAC ABANDONED FISHING GEAR IN LONG ISLAND SOUND We have to collect all that junk at the bottom! What a disgrace that 500,000 lobster pots remain on the floor of the Sound, especially since there are barely any lobsters left! We have to protect the marine life that still exists. Also, there is danger for boaters dropping an anchor which could become entangled in sunken debris. PLEASE allow concerned citizens, municipal leaders and officials, harbor masters and others to participate in a full scale clean up of this mess.

2. I support passage of SB 341—AAC CLOTHING FIBER POLLUTION

It is unbelievable to learn that Microfibers from all those cozy warm jackets and tops are, in fact a threat to marine life. Who knew that garments made of synthetic material such as polyester, nylon, and acrylic, release dangerous microplastic fibers when they're washed?

The natural environment is tough enough for Long Island Sound marine animals. To force them to ingest this stuff that comes out of homes, into wastewater treatment plants, and into vital marine habitat is unconscionable!

I urge you to hold apparel companies responsible for the effects of their products through this legislation.

3.) I support passage of of SB 343—AAC THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE SAFETY PLANS OF CERTAIN CHEMICAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE AND RESIDENTS OF DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES

I urge you to pass this bill to require updated safety plans for certain chemical facilities that are at risk of coastal and river flooding and severe weather events that would release toxic mixture into waters and soil.

It would also establish a Climate Justice Working Group. Many of these chemical facilities are in low-income areas that don't have resources or options available to address flooding events that would cause disaster from chemical spills. The Long Island Blue Plan Inventory lists 17 petroleum terminals located primarily in Bridgeport and New Haven. Plans should be updated and shared with the communities that don't have resources or options available to address flooding event responses.

By passing these these three bills you will greatly increase protection of the health of my family, our environment, and Long Island Sound. I am personally dedicated to helping restore the Sound. I want to know about the damage things like sunken debris, microfibers, and the need for good plans for keeping toxic chemicals out of flood waters so I can voice my concerns. I know you share my hopes for the future of the Sound and all who treasure it. So please pass these three bills!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Karherine Desmond
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