

Dear Environment Committee member,

1) In SUPPORT of SB 426—AAC ABANDONED FISHING GEAR IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

90% of the more than 500,000 lobster traps at the bottom of Long Island Sound are in poor condition, but still catching -- 75% of them ensnaring by-catch (sea bass, crabs, and other sea creatures). These traps also affect navigational safety and damage fishing equipment and boats on the Sound.

We need better collection legislation to remove these traps. I urge you to pass SB 426 to ease restrictions on who can retrieve abandoned lobster pots in Connecticut waters.

2) In SUPPORT of SB 341—AAC CLOTHING FIBER POLLUTION

Microfibers (dangerous microplastic, released from synthetic materials when garments are washed) are a hazard. When they enter the digestive tracts of certain organisms, they cause starvation and reproductive failure. They also transport dangerous chemicals into the water. Microfibers have also been found in many aquatic species and by-products consumed by humans, with unknown -- but likely dangerous -- consequences.

I am encouraged that companies like Patagonia, Nike, Levi Strauss, VF Corporation, and Puma have all taken steps to mitigate the effects of microplastic pollution. However, all apparel companies should do the same.

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

3) In SUPPORT 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 establish a Climate Justice Working Group and 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--often in low-income areas that don't have resources or options available to address flooding events that would cause disaster from chemical spills.

SUMMARY: I ask that through these three bills you continue to protect the health of me and my neighbors, our environment, and Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,
Ms. Amy Ewing
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