



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Before the Environment Committee

In Support

**S.B. No. 343 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE ON THE SAFETY PLANS OF CERTAIN CHEMICAL FACILITIES IN THE
STATE AND RESIDENTS OF DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES**

Submitted by: Bill Lucey, Soundkeeper

March 13, 2018

Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) is a non-profit organization with over 4,700 member households statewide. CFE, its bi-state program Save the Sound, and its Soundkeeper protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring citizens together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Sens. Kennedy and Miner, Reps. Demicco and Reyes and Members of the Committee:

Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its bi-state program Save the Sound (CFE/Save the Sound) writes to ask that you support this common sense legislation.

It became apparent after Hurricanes Harvey and Katrina that adequate contingency plans were not in place when floodwaters rose. Across Texas, Coast Guard filings also showed some 365 tons of toxic chemicals like sulfur dioxide, ammonia, toluene, benzene, and carbon monoxide escaped from facilities during Harvey.¹

Spills such as these risk human health by contaminating homes, soils and seafood—requiring expensive clean-up operations. Connecticut should ensure these plans are up to date and facilities are flood-proofed.

The Draft Long Island Sound Blue Plan Resource Inventory² identifies 17 coastal terminals transferring petroleum products, primarily located in New Haven and Bridgeport. Other manufacturing plants, such as the metal fabrication plant that recently spilled 6000 gallons into the Naugatuck River, are located along Connecticut's waterways and also at risk of flooding.

Residential areas closest to chemical manufacturing and transport have lower real estate values which concentrate lower income residents.³ When planning for the impacts of climate change, it

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-harvey-spills/oil-and-chemical-spills-from-hurricane-harvey-big-but-dwarfed-by-katrina-idUSKCN1BQ1E8>

² Created by Public Act 15-66, May 2015

³ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pollution-poverty-people-color-living-industry/>



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is imperative to remember those residents that may be disproportionately affected. The creation of a Climate Justice Working Group would ensure that these voices are heard.

I again commend the committee for taking the time to raise this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey
Soundkeeper

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