

March 8, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5385, HB 5019, SB 1003, HB 5384, SB 229, HB 7294, and SB 1001

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco, Vice-Chairs Senator Kushner and Representative Gresko, Ranking Members Senator Miner and Representative Harding, and Distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

I am submitting testimony in support of the following seven bills:

H.B. No. 5385: AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

HB 5019: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIVE-CENT TAX ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS.

SB 1003: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS.

HB 5384: AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE STYROFOAM CONTAINERS.

SB 229: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF STYROFOAM TRAYS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

HB 7294: AN ACT CONCERNING BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN THE STATE

SB 1001: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF SMOKE DETECTORS

We need to take care of our environment and in so doing we will also be assuring clean water and caring for our health and reducing healthcare costs.

We all need to do our part, however, consumers have become used to plastic and paper bags, plastic straws and single use styrofoam containers and trays. We now need laws to eliminate them, as well as take-out plastic and styrofoam food containers.

There are biodegradable alternatives that we need to use to keep plastic out of our water supply and the food chain. In addition, the bottle bill will also contribute to better recycling.

One other bill for responsible recycling of residential smoke detectors is very important. If you read the label when you get a smoke detector, there is a warning to wash your hands after handling or changing the batteries, since there are dangerous chemicals in these devices, which if not recycled correctly may end up in our water supply.

I urge the members of the committee to unanimously support and vote all these bills out of the committee: HB 5385, HB 5019, SB 1003, HB 5384, SB 229, HB 7294, and SB 1001.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Paula Bacolini

Glastonbury, CT