

I, Connie Cooper, Sandy Hook, am submitting written testimony in **support** of the following four bills:

HB 1003 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS

I recommend an amendment to HB 1003 to encourage reusable bag use through a charge on paper bags.

HB 5384 - AN ACT ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE STYROFOAM CONTAINERS

HB 5385 - AN ACT ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

HB 7294 - AN ACT CONCERNING BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN THE STATE

I can't for the life of me understand how anyone on this planet could be a climate change denier. These four bills scratch the surface of what needs to be done to protect our environment. There is nothing unreasonable in them. We MUST all do our part before it's too late. When I was in Portland, OR a year ago, no one handed out plastic straws or lids; I didn't see any styrofoam containers; we all had our cloth bags in grocery stores and other retail stores. CT is already behind some other states in smart environmental practices. Let's get going! We can't wait!

The recycling market in CT has collapsed, and the cost of dealing with our waste is soaring. Listen up, especially Republicans: If we don't do something to reduce our waste, there will be no choice but to raise our taxes. Cleaner environment and lower taxes — isn't that a win/win?

We will adjust; we have no choice.

Sincerely,
Connie Cooper
Sandy Hook, CT