

**March 8, 2019**

**Testimony Submitted in SUPPORT of HB 7294, HB 5019/SB 1003,  
HB 5384/SB 229, and HB 5385**

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

As a wildlife rehabilitator and a lover of the outdoors, I fully support:

HB 7294-to expand the bottle bill

HB 5019-to reduce single-use plastic bags

HB 5384-to eliminate polystyrene containers/trays

HB 5385-to eliminate single-use plastic straws

I am tired of taking a walk and having to pick up plastic garbage. I am tired of kayaking in our local waters and seeing plastic bags, cups, and straws float past me. As a wildlife rehabilitator I am appalled to see animals wrapped in plastic bags, and with guts full of assorted pieces of plastic. We are a tourist destination, but who wants to spend money to be surrounded by trash? Maine has already eliminated plastic straws, helping to maintain its pristine environment.

Connecticut has a moral obligation to fight this pollution – and to help reverse the trends cited below.

**National Geographic**, 6/2018

“...some 700 species of marine animals have been reported – so far – to have eaten or become entangled in plastic...”

**Huffington Post (HUFFPOST)** 2017

“At least 8 million tons of plastics wind up in the oceans each year...”

“...a study from 2015...found incidences of around 44,000 animals being entangled in or swallowing debris since 1960 – is thought by its authors to ‘underestimate’ the problem.”

**Center for Biological Diversity “Ocean Plastics Pollution A Global Tragedy for Our Oceans and Sea Life”**

“At current rates plastic is expected to outweigh all the fish in the sea by 2050.”

“It’s estimated that 60 percent of all seabird species have eaten pieces of plastic, with that number predicted to increase to 99 percent by 2050.”

Respectfully submitted,  
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