

Teresa Eickel

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To the Environment Committee

Testimony regarding Plastic Pollution

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I would like to state my deep concern regarding plastic pollution in our natural environment. I hope that the state legislature passes meaningful legislation on this issue. Below are the bills that I SUPPORT:

- HB 1003: An Act Concerning Single-Use Plastic and Paper Bags
- HB 5384: An Act Concerning Polystyrene Food Service Containers
- HB 5385: An Act Eliminating Single-Use Plastic Straws
- HB 7294; An Act Concerning Bottle Redemption

I support all of these bills, although I would like to see HB 1003 amended to encourage reusable bag use through a charge on paper bags. This is the way that Westport addressed plastic bags and it has worked. Plastic pollution is incredibly harmful to human health, creating plastic bags and straws etc is very toxic to the communities that live near the factories. Destroying plastic is also very harmful – burning it releases a multitude of toxins into the air, including dioxin, a known carcinogen. Dumping it means that we have enormous quantities of plastic in our natural environment. Everyone has heard of the devastating plastic patch floating in the Pacific, for example. Below are two pictures of how plastic pollution is harming the environment. We really have to do better – for people and the planet!



Thank you for taking action in this matter!

Very best regards,

Teresa Eickel