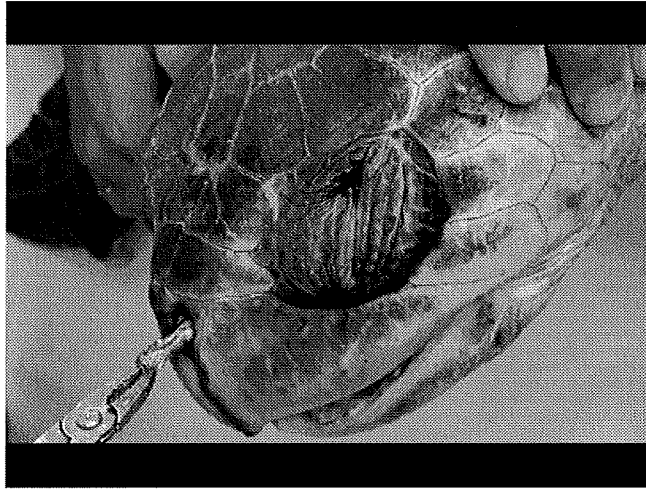




**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
February March 11, 2019**



Support

HB 5385- AN ACT ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS
SB 1003- AAC SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS
HB 5384- AN ACT ELIMINATING POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS
HB 7294- AAC BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN CONNECTICUT

To: Chairmen Sen. Christine Cohen and Rep. Mike Demicco,
And Honorable Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and providing education on water stewardship.

Garbage, trash, and debris are fouling land and water. Indestructible plastics are everywhere in our rivers and oceans, and in our bodies. Most of the plastic mass is invisible. Nevertheless, visible pollution is inescapable. Presently, towns in Connecticut are faced with the new costs in handling waste as the global market

Finally, the benefit of running redemption centers must be increased. In Maine, for example, redemption centers are prevalent and do an enormous business. The centers are essential to meeting our long-standing goal for a low-trash environment.

Others have offered expert testimony on the science of the health harms of plastic pollution. I'll only mention that many of the toxins in plastics are the same as or similar to high-risk chemicals in pesticides, medications, and personal care products. The adverse effects of interactions and synergy among these substances are most obvious in physical abnormalities in aquatic life (especially in the reproductive organs), but are reasonably believed to be harmful to human as well.

We urge the you, please, to take advantage of the opportunities these bills offer to leave the world a little cleaner, with surviving whales and turtles that our grandchildren can see in the wild -- not crippled or killed by plastic trash.

Thank you for your hard work in this busy session.

Margaret Miner

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