



State of Connecticut
House of Representatives

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8 March 2019

Senator Christine Cohen, Chair
Representative Mike Demicco, Chair
Senator Julie Kushner, Vice Chair
Representative Joseph Gresko, Vice Chair
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

In support of Senate Bills 229, 1003, and House Bills 5019, 5384

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the Environment Committee,

1. [S.B. No. 1003](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS. (ENV)
2. [H.B. No. 5019](#) (COMM) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIVE-CENT TAX ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS. (ENV)

I would also like to testify in favor of SB 1003 An Act Concerning the Use of Single Use Plastic and Paper Bags and HB 5019 An Act Establishing a Five-Cent Tax on Single Use Plastic and Paper Bags. As you know, I represent a shoreline community in Milford. My constituents are extremely concerned about the environment and especially our waterways. Single use plastic bags are used for just a few minutes and then tossed in the garbage or recycling. We are too willing to use massive amounts of plastic for our convenience, without concern for the long term environmental impacts. These bags are extremely lightweight and are easily blown out of your recycling bin or landfills and end up all over the side of the roads and in our waterways. You should see the number of plastic bags we retrieve from Silver Sands State Park. Rather than leave this up to municipalities or specific grocery chains, it is time to make a state-wide ban. This proposal has been met with approval and support from the National Grocers Association, and is feasible.

While I understand not wanting to burden our residents with another tax, I do think a five-cent tax on single use plastics and paper bags is a great way to tackle this problem. While I would like to see an outright ban in grocery chains, restaurants, and stores, I do recognize the merits of the tax proposal if an outright ban is not possible. A tax would be a deterrent which

would encourage a change in behavior. No one wants to pay an extra five cents for every bag used to carry groceries, and again, only using the bags for a few minutes every time. This five cent fee will add up quickly for consumers. People will realize how unnecessary it is to pollute our environment and waterways with these bags that are only used for a small amount of time. A tax is a great way to encourage people to buy reusable bags. A reusable bag is such a small investment to prevent thousands of bags from entering our environment from just one person. Additional benefits are that reusable bags are very strong and will not break with heavy objects or sharp box corners inside. The cost to residents of paying a bag fee will be offset by the long term benefits to them and their children that come from more sustainable environmental policies.

3. [S.B. No. 229](#) (COMM) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF STYROFOAM TRAYS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS. (ENV)
4. [H.B. No. 5384](#) (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE STYROFOAM CONTAINERS. (ENV)

I would like to testify in favor of SB 229, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Styrofoam Trays in Connecticut Schools, and HB 5384, An Act Requiring the Elimination of Single-Use Styrofoam Containers. Connecticut schools use massive amounts of styrofoam trays every day to serve lunch. These are used for 20 minutes and then immediately thrown in the trash where they are put in a landfill or incinerated. We should all take a lesson from Guilford Public Schools and their advocacy group, Green Patrol. They no longer purchase styrofoam products and now use molded fiber trays made from 100% recycled paper fibers. What's particularly special about this change is that the push for recyclables in our school is coming from the students themselves. We teach them to care about the environment, but they are picking up cues from the fact that their own schools are using massive amounts of plastic and Styrofoam. I'm proud of Connecticut students for applying what they have learned in the classroom and advocating for change. After all, our efforts to save the environment are for them, for our future generations. We need to take responsibility for providing a clean state for them to live thrive in as well.

Thank you for your time. Respectfully,



Kim Rose

Serving Milford 118th