

Jessie Stratton
31 Spring Street
Noank, CT 06340
March 11, 2019

Testimony in support of:

HB 1003- AAC SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS

HB 5384- AN ACT ELIMINATING POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

HB 5385- AN ACT ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

HB 7294- AAC BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN CONNECTICUT

H.B. No. 5385 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS.

Senator Cohen, Representative Demicco and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of these bills. Fundamentally, the proponents of these bills are to be applauded for initiating action to update our laws and practices to help eliminate – or at least reduce - the use of unnecessary, voluminous and detrimental bags and containers.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the familiar hierarchy of materials management is: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle”. While recycling is great, it is the least desirable option and the state of current recycling markets makes it even less so. A challenged recycling market is further exacerbated by our efforts to increase the amount of recycled material through adoption of single stream collection process which has resulted in material contamination that makes it even less valuable.

In sum each of these bills would help promote the top of the materials management hierarchy, i.e. REDUCE. I urge the committee to move forward to reduce unnecessary waste.

Thank you for your consideration on these matters.