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Testimony submitted to the  
Environment Committee  
for the public hearing on March 11, 2019

In support, with modifications, of Committee Bill 5385 LCO No. 5033:  
An Act Requiring the Elimination of Single-Use Plastic Straws.

Representative Demicco, Senator Cohen, Representative Gresko, Senator Kushner, and Members of the Committee,

I support, with modifications, Committee Bill 5385 LCO No. 5033, An Act Requiring the Elimination of Single-Use Plastic Straws.

Many single-use plastic items, like straws, make their way to landfills, storm drains, and oceans, where they never fully degrade. This bill is a step toward ridding the state's environment of this plastic pollution.

I respectfully ask that the committee consider amending the language in the bill to include all food and beverage establishments, in addition to those defined in the proposed act as a 'full service restaurant.' I suggest the language be broadened to include any food or beverage vendor, such as food trucks, drive-through eateries, take-out coffee shops and cafes, fast-food restaurants, self-serve restaurants, grocery stores, bars, and cafeterias, to name a few.

Since so many of us frequent different types of food and beverage vendors in the course of any day, I think it's imperative the bill require all of them to stop automatically offering single-use plastic straws to every customer. I believe this will have the greatest effect in reducing this type of plastic waste in our state.

Should the bill wend its way through the legislative process to the respective chambers, I think it's important that the language in lines 28-30 be maintained. This portion of the bill allows consumers, such as those who may have a medical or physical condition requiring the use of a straw, to request one.

I urge you to support Committee Bill 5385, with the above modifications.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your service to our state.