Testimony of Patricia Taylor  
Director of the Plastics Project  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.  

**Bill 5385**

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS.**

To the Chairmen of the Environment Committee, Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco, and Members of the Environment Committee:

As Director of the Plastics Project for Environment and Human Health, Inc., we are in favor of Bill 5385.

This bill prohibits owners or operators of full-service restaurants from providing a single-use plastic straw to a customer unless the customer asks for the straw.

These straws are in use only for the time it takes for a customer to finish their drink, then they quickly become solid waste or litter. For the most part, restaurant straws are not a necessity – they are a brief convenience and are usually used as an afterthought. It makes good common sense to require that customers who need a plastic straw to drink must ask for one.

This Bill places no financial burden on restaurants and has an immediate positive impact for our residents.

Plastic straws are a small but usually needless percentage of our entire plastic waste burden. Any measure, including this Bill, that reduces our unnecessary use of plastic serves as a positive step towards our best health and to educate each of us about better environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your attention,  
Patricia Taylor  
Director of the Plastics Project,  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.  
March 7, 2019