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

Bill 229

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF STYROFOAM TRAYS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

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 want to express our support for Bill 229.

This bill seeks to regulate the use of expanded polystyrene, a foam material that insulates and cushions what it carries.

These trays are a form of plastic that are used one time then they are thrown away. Here in Connecticut, we are facing steeply increasing costs to recycle or otherwise manage garbage. This Bill would effectively reduce our use of plastic and eliminate its placement in our solid waste management system in Connecticut.

In addition, trays made from expanded polystyrene contain styrene (also known as vinyl benzene), which is a carcinogen, as well as other additives that are trade secrets, so we cannot evaluate their potential harmfulness to human health. Like other chemicals, styrene may present an increased risk to infants and children, so it is particularly important not to expose children in our schools to this unnecessary risk on an everyday basis.

Thank you for your attention,

Patricia Taylor  
Director of the Plastics Project,  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.  
March 7, 2019