TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL HB 1003 WHICH REQUESTS A BAN ON THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS.

My name is Ann Berman, 77 Pelham St., Milford, CT 06460, representing the Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition, ECC. This past summer at our Oyster Festival, we had over 700 people sign a petition in favor of banning the single-use plastic shopping bag.

We are now experiencing the nemesis of all plastics which is in the process of affecting the health and life of all humans and destroying the planet in all of its environs.

We cannot prevent the production of all plastics, however we can participate in the act of refusing to use the ubiquitous single-use plastic shopping bag and to participate in passing laws in banning the distribution of said bag.

Billions of bags are produced and distributed over the world in a day. These bags can last forever in a landfill, and in the oceans, break down to be ingested by marine life and eventually ingested by us. Between 8 and 10% of the world’s oil production in a year, goes toward the manufacturing of the single-use plastic bag, and it is increasing each year.

We have the right and the responsibility to change the laws to protect our lives and that of the planet by demanding a ban in the production and distribution of the single-use plastic shopping bags. We need to remember that we managed without that bag until its invention. Yes it will require changing our culture, and our personal habit for depending on that bag, but we are left with no legitimate excuse that we cannot live without them now and in the future.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity for bringing this very important issue to be voted on and hopefully passed and making Connecticut the first state to ban the single-use plastic shopping bag on the East Coast.

Signed by