Testimony Submitted to the Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly
Re: SB 1003: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS.

Public Hearing March 11, 2019

Dear Representative Demicco, Senator Cohen, Senator Kushner, Representative Gresko, Senator Miner, Representative Harding and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Marianne Horn and I am a resident of Bloomfield, CT.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation and for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1003: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS.

I support this bill with regard to the ban of single-use plastic bags and certain paper bags. However, for the reasons outlined below, I ask that the bill be amended to promote reusable bag use by including a 15 cent surcharge on any paper bags provided.

While laudable that this bill seeks to ban single use plastic bags, it exempts paper bags that are 100% recyclable. It should not be forgotten that any single use bag, paper or plastic, pollutes our environment, threatens marine wildlife and costs taxpayers money! A paper bag, even if is 100% recyclable, is also far more limited in terms of re-use than a plastic bag and its overall carbon footprint from manufacture to disposal is bigger than plastic.

The committee should be aiming to change consumer behavior by promoting reusable bag use! Only a ban/surcharge approach is guaranteed to cut down on plastic AND paper bags.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Horn
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