

2/21/20

Dear Environment Committee Chairs Cohen and Demicco, Vice-Chairs Gresko and Kushner, Ranking Members Harding and Miner, and distinguished members of the Committee:

Please **support** the following raised bills:

**HB 5103 An Act Requiring an Evaluation of the State's Environmental Justice Law**

As noted by the Sierra Club, there is ample evidence of the disproportionate exposure to and impact of emissions on residents of our state's Environmental Justice Communities. Minority and low-income communities are impacted by air pollution at a higher rate than other communities due to the siting of facilities like energy and solid waste infrastructure that emit particulate pollution. Health disparities in our cities including childhood asthma rates and other health outcomes. It is critical that Connecticut take action to address this. There are numerous ways we can and should address pollution and environmental justice; strengthening our Environmental Justice Law, as this bill will, is a necessary and meaningful step in the right direction.

**SB 99 An Act Considering the Use and Distribution of Polystyrene Products**

We are awash in plastic waste in the world. These products stick around for a long, long time and end up breaking down into micro particles that are ingested by wildlife, and ultimately, us. The health impacts are yet to be fully understood, but clearly we are not meant to eat plastic.

**HJ 1 Resolution Proposing the Adoption of the Long Island Blue Plan**

As noted by the Sierra Club: the plan provides information and guidance in decision making that will aid stakeholders including those that love the Sound, conservation interest, those that use the Sound for recreational and commercial purposes, state and local agencies, and those with development and economic interests. The plan identifies and protects Significant Human Use Area and Ecologically Significant areas. It's a resource the public, regulators, and developers alike can use to help make good decisions about the Sound.

Thank you for your consideration of these important bills.

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