

Dear Honorable Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing today to ask that you support the following bills:

HB5103 Environmental Justice

HB5104 Wildlife Trafficking

HJ1 Long Island Sound Blue Plan

SB99 Polystyrene

LCO373

Support for HB5103: the unjust placement of “affecting facilities” near low-income communities and communities of color, and the disproportionately higher incidence of health issues caused by such facilities is still ongoing. Latest example: a second gas fired power plant in Killingly, where the rural communities are already suffering of low air quality. The bill before you today would expand the scope and strengthen the language of the existing law, strengthen the input for affected communities and enable better mitigation for historic, existing and future projects.

Please support HB5103!

Support for HB5104: African countries are struggling to implement the ban on poaching, because there is still money to be made with trophies. During 2005-20015, 39 lions and 1 giraffe have been killed and the trophies have been imported by CT residents, and the money paid for the hunt could have financed illegal poaching, or even worse criminal and terrorist groups. Please pass a state wide ban on the import, trade and possession of the “Big Six African species”.

Please support HB5104!

Support for HJ1: in order to acknowledge the public input from more than 2,000 residents from recreation, business, conservation, government, Native American tribes and other backgrounds, regarding the safeguard for future use of the Long Island Sound and all the implications for the 20 Million people who live within 50 miles of the sound (myself included), I urge you to adopt and implement the Blue Plan as the basis for any future use by all parties.

Please support HJ1!

Support for SB99: during multiple cleanup services on the Quinnipiac River, I have seen and collected some of the unbelievable amount of improperly disposed polystyrene in our state. Polystyrene is toxic in its production (made from petroleum, harmful emissions), but even more so during use, as possibly carcinogenic chemicals can leak into the food or beverages consumed, and during disposal (hazard to wildlife, contamination of water and soil). Especially our students should not be exposed to this material for their daily meals, but should instead see that there are viable, biodegradable or multi-use alternatives. Please make all schools ban polystyrene trays and use alternatives, as other states have successfully demonstrated that this is beneficial to the economy and especially to our students' health.

Please support SB99!

Support for LCO373: transportation contributes 38% of CT's greenhouse gas emissions. Restructuring our transportation infrastructure is urgently needed. While I support the transportation initiative, I also urge you to ensure that investment in active transportation, public transportation and electric vehicle infrastructure, as well as electrification of school busses, is integrated in further planning. Also please allow for representatives from the active transportation, environmental and land conservation, public health and minority communities to be part of the planning.

With these changes implemented, please support LCO373!

Thank you for considering my contributions.

Respectfully,

Adelheid Koepfer, 35 Whiffle Tree Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492