

**Testimony of Susan Eastwood  
CGA Environment Committee  
March 6, 2020**

**In support of HB 5344, SB 297, HB 5340 with changes**

Dear Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Susan Eastwood. I am a resident of Ashford and the Chair of the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force, a member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT and the Sierra Club Executive Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of several raised bills before the Committee. These bills all contribute to Connecticut's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect our environment and the health of our citizens.

I urge your support of the following bills, with changes:

**H.B. No. 5344 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING OFF-SHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN CONNECTICUT. - SUPPORT**

I strongly support HB 5344 because the Long Island Sound is a vital resource for Connecticut's economy and quality of life. It must be protected! Offshore drilling for fossil fuels is highly destructive to the environment and when spills happen the damage is beyond repair. This energy intensive extraction is destructive to the ecosystem, harms wildlife and would destroy our scenic coast which is so important to the tourist industry in the state.

I appreciate this proactive effort to prohibit offshore drilling now, before the fossil fuel industry gets its foot in the sand. We are already having to fight expanding fracked gas infrastructure around the state, like the unneeded and expensive Killingly Energy Center. Connecticut is moving towards a clean energy future and more dirty fossil fuels are unneeded. I am proud that we are going forward with offshore wind, a much better way to meet future energy demands and replace retiring oil, coal and gas facilities. Allowing any further fossil fuel development, especially offshore drilling which will damage our shore and Sound, makes it more difficult to reach our clean energy goals and puts our health and environment at unnecessary risk.

I urge you to vote **YES on HB 5344** to restrict the expansion of fossil fuels in the state.

**S.B. No. 297 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM. - SUPPORT with timeline changes**

I have submitted separate testimony on this bill. I strongly support but would like to see for **shorter implementation timelines for both training and the full ban** given the urgency of the problem.

**H.B. No. 5340 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE CONNECTICUT BOTTLE – SUPPORT with changes**

**I strongly support HB 5430, as do a bipartisan majority of Connecticut citizens.** According to a poll conducted in January by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, 81% of voters in Connecticut support expanding the state's bottle deposit program to include all recyclable containers, including 64% of voters who strongly support expansion!

Expanding the Bottle Bill to include juices, teas, sports drinks, wine and liquor will capture up to 400 million more beverage containers annually. It is an effective, convenient way to help towns reduce litter and save money on recycling.

However, **HB 5340 MUST be amended to include wine and liquor bottles.** DEEP estimates that 60% of glass in recycle bins is wine or liquor bottles. Glass is a problem for single stream recycling because it breaks and contaminates other materials. Much of it ends up in incinerators! If consumers pay a ten-cent deposit for glass wine and liquor bottles, many more will be returned and this will ease the quantity of glass dealt with and the costs of handling it for municipalities.

I urge you to **PASS HB 5340 with the addition of wine and liquor bottles** this session!

Thank you for your work to make Connecticut a safe and healthy place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Susan Eastwood  
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Ashford, CT