



**For the Environment Committee
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
February 15, 2023**

Rivers Alliance was formed to fight for sound water policies at the state and federal levels, to provide education on water resources, and to advocate for any person or group striving to protect water. If you want clean, free-flowing and healthy rivers, and high-quality drinking water, Rivers Alliance is here to help.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the following raised bills before you today.

**HB 6606 AAC CERTAIN THE USE OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS MADE FROM
POLYSTYRENE - SUPPORT**

Talk to anyone who has participated in a river cleanup and they will tell you that single-use polystyrene is a serious threat to our waters and aquatic environment. It easily breaks down into very small pieces that are nearly impossible to remove from riverbanks and shorelines and makes its way into the ocean to contribute to the ever-increasing masses of plastic pollution.

School-aged children, teenagers and college students are more aware than adults of the need to discontinue use of disposable plastic and polystyrene items as well as reduce, in general, the waste items that we create. Yet polystyrene trays and food service items are being used in our schools where kids have a no choice but to use these items and throw them away.

Lastly, Connecticut is experiencing a solid waste management crisis. Municipalities are struggling to pay for the cost of their municipal solid waste programs. Mandating a discontinuation of trays made from expanded polystyrene in a setting where hundreds of trays will be used each day will aid in reducing the bulk of solid waste. We are extremely pleased that this bill also includes single-use polystyrene food service items that will also help in reducing municipal solid waste.

Please pass this bill.