

Name: Claire Walsh

Title:

Organization or Agency: Chair, DEMOCRACY Women In Action

Topic: HB05354 - AAC TERRAMATION.

Supports

Testimony:

HB 5354 An Act Concerning Terramation

Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Claire Walsh, a resident of Killingworth, and a retired nurse and clinical social worker. I am profoundly concerned about the environment, and the devastating impact of climate change. I believe that we have a responsibility to mitigate the forces contributing to climate change and to preserve our natural environment in every possible way.

I am submitting testimony today in support of HB 5354 An Act Concerning Terramation.

Terramation, also called natural organic reduction, is a sustainable option for CT residents who do not want to be embalmed or cremated. It does not add to air pollution, nor does it require cemetery space. It may also serve to reduce the cost of traditional burials. Terramation is an ancient environmental practice and is legal in WA, OR, CA, NY, and VT. It allows for the remains of the deceased to be returned to the earth in ways that benefit the environment. Finally, funeral directors in CT assert the benefits of the method which can be regulated for health and safety.

I urge you to consider this burial method which is appealing to many in the environment community, and which has its merits in reducing the impact on our environment.

Thank you for allowing the voice of the people to be heard in this public hearing.

Claire M. Walsh