Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) in support of SB-291 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS.

Municipalities along the coastline are increasingly concerned about the number of balloons that wind up in Long Island sound. In addition, municipalities in other areas of the state are concerned about balloons that are released and end up littering the ground, lakes, rivers, and streams. These discarded balloons create hazards for birds, fish, and other wildlife.

In addition, balloons get stuck in catch basins, electrical wires, pipes, and other infrastructure, creating additional problems.

Municipalities must spend scarce resources to collect balloons that have been released, including picking them out of the water and removing them from infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the bill.