

**Name:** Mary Grimes

**Title:** Community Impact

**Organization or Agency:**

**Topic:** HB06257 - AA AUTHORIZING THE USE OF TERRAMATION.

Supports

**Testimony:**

Dear Environment Committee,

As an African American woman in Connecticut, I stand in firm support of terramation as a healing alternative to cremation for our community. For too long, systemic inequalities have disproportionately impacted our access to dignified, affordable, and environmentally conscious end-of-life options, often compounding the grief of loss with financial strain and ecological harm. Terramation, by transforming remains into nutrient-rich soil, not only honors our loved ones in a sustainable way but also aligns with ancestral values of returning to the earth, fostering a sense of cultural continuity and spiritual renewal. In a state where our community has faced historical and ongoing challenges, embracing terramation offers a path to reclaim agency, heal collectively, and build a legacy of care for both our people and our planet.

Sincerely,

Mary Grimes