



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF
HB 6608 AAC THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS
BY CERTAIN RESTAURANTS.
February 14, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of HB 6608** to curtail the distribution of single-use plastic straws.

Our waterways and open spaces are increasingly polluted with single-use plastics like straws, utensils, food packaging and other waste. The consequences of plastic pollution that winds up in our rivers and oceans have proven disastrous to more than 200 species of marine life. Recent reports of whales, dolphins, and other aquatic species that have been discovered entangled in plastic or with intestinal obstructions as a result of plastic intake are proof of the rising problem that plastic trash is causing to wildlife in our environment.

Only 9% of the plastics produced in the United States are properly recycled. Single-use plastic straws are not recyclable in Connecticut and can take hundreds of years to decompose.

The plastics industry is not showing any signs of slowing down production, so it is up to state and municipal governments to minimize the quantity of single-use plastics entering our environment. Prevention is the key.

As towns continue to grapple with the rising cost of recycling, many have set their sights on further reducing plastic trash. Passage of HB 6608 is a significant step to reduce single-use plastics and **will help put our state on the path to better waste management policies.**

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