



TESTIMONY
April 14, 2023

SB 1242 AAC WASTE MANAGEMENT

To: Honored Co-Chairs Senator Fonfara and Representative Horn,
Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

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

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment on
HB SB 1242 regarding waste management.

Everyone agrees that Connecticut is struggling with a waste crisis. We applaud the efforts of this Committee and the Administration for putting forward legislation to reduce our waste stream, especially with regards to food waste. Organic waste diversion could potentially reduce our waste stream by 20%.

Please consider including provisions to ensure food scraps are processed in the most beneficial way to ensure the greatest success for this program. This should include diverting as much quality food as possible for donations, reusing edible scraps for animal feed, and composting as much as possible locally.

CTLCV strongly supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as a proven approach to packaging waste that is not currently recyclable in our state due to mixed packaging and other obstacles. The industries must be responsible for the waste they create and EPR—if done correctly—will increase our recycling rates in ways that save money and do not create additional air or water pollution.

However, we urge you to **exclude Chemical Recycling as an acceptable technology** to reduce our plastic waste. This process uses toxic chemicals and creates waste that would be burned and wind up back in the environment.

This polluting technology is being pushed on our state by the petrochemical industry which puts its profits above the best interests of the public and our environment.

CTLCV is also concerned that this bill allows industry to set its own recycling and diversion goals with limited oversight or enforcement. We urge the Committee to **incorporate mandatory, enforceable reduction targets and strong state oversight.**

Thank you for considering the long-term health of our environment when you vote.

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