



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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March 14, 2025

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Bumgardner, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: Committee Bill No. 6229 - An Act Concerning a Reduction of Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene Waste

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council **SUPPORTS** the provisions of Committee Bill 6229 that would reduce the use of polystyrene and single use plastic. The Council also **SUPPORTS** the provision for the Departments of Consumer Protection (DCP) and Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to develop and implement a plan that includes educational outreach to provide guidance and resources to help businesses and institutions transition to sustainable alternatives. The Council suggests that the proposed legislation identify a date by which the proposed plan should be developed and that additional resources be provided to DCP and DEEP to implement the provisions of the proposed bill.

Polystyrene and single use plastic materials are not compostable or easily recyclable, and contribute to the state's solid waste problem. As detailed in the Council's 2023 annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*,¹ "over 1.5 million tons of the state's solid waste were disposed of at one of the resource recovery facilities (RRF) in the state, while more than 640,000 tons were transported out of state for disposal. With the closure of the Material Innovation and Recycling Authority's RRF in Hartford in July 2022, and limited capacity for additional material at the other in-state RRFs, it is expected that the in-state capacity deficit to manage the state's solid waste will continue in the near term." Consequently, measures to reduce the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of in-state and especially out-of-state should be encouraged.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/ceq/ar-23-gold/2023-ceq-annual-report-ebook/personal-impact---waste-diversion>