



March 17, 2025

Connecticut Environment Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 6229 AN ACT CONCERNING A REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND  
POLYSTYRENE WASTE

Dear Members of the Connecticut Environment Committee,

My name is David Aldridge, and I am the Executive Director of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA). SCRRRA serves 12 municipalities in Southeastern CT and their 230,000 residents. I have been in this capacity with SCRRRA for thirteen years, managing the waste disposal and recycling systems that support the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 6229. I strongly support this bill, as obviously many people do, given that it has 34 co-sponsors and 53 submissions of written testimony, of which 50 support the bill. I have read all the testimony that has been submitted and wholeheartedly agree with the concerns regarding plastics and polystyrene as relates to litter, the impact of marine debris along our beautiful rivers and coastline, and the health hazards that the chemicals involved present.

I would like to discuss this bill from a different perspective – how HB 6229 fits in with the larger waste issue in the state and the financial implications that go along with all the environmental concerns. As you know, the state has a significant waste disposal shortfall that was exacerbated when the Hartford waste-to-energy facility closed in 2022. Per the information provided in DEEP's Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy published in 2023, the state was processing 3.3 million tons of municipal solid waste at an average per ton cost of \$81, resulting in an annual expenditure of \$267 million. Currently, while the volumes remain steady, that average per ton cost has risen to the neighborhood of \$115 per ton, or an annual expenditure of \$379 million, an increase of nearly \$112 million (42%). The data further project by 2030 a per ton cost of \$130 per ton for an additional \$50 million, bringing the eight-year increase to \$162 million, or over 60%. That is a burden that is being placed on the tax paying constituents that we both serve.

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YEAR	TONS	AVG TIP FEE / TON	TOTAL COST	INCREASE	% INCREASE
2022*	3,300,000	\$81	\$267,300,000	-----	-----
2025	3,300,000	\$115	\$379,500,000	\$112,200,000	42%
2030**	3,300,000	\$130	\$429,000,000	\$49,500,000	12%
<b>Total Increase Since 2022</b>				<b>\$161,700,000</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>CT Population</b>				<b>3,700,000</b>	
<b>Increase Per Capita Since 2022</b>				<b>\$44</b>	<b>60%</b>

\* Year the Hartford waste-to-energy facility closed

\*\*Projected

Data source: CT DEEP, CMMS

I applaud the steps being taken in HB 6229 as it removes a portion of this heavy burden and addresses some of the most environmentally difficult petroleum-based products from our waste stream. My concern, given the vastness of the waste problem, is that this does not go nearly far enough. In my opinion, we should be working toward a total ban of these items in conjunction with making food waste a mandatory recyclable and furthering Producer Responsibility legislation. If you do the math on our current trajectory, the price tag to the state residents is going up about \$27,000 per day.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposed bill.

Sincerely,

David Aldridge  
Executive Director