

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 118
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
February 25, 2022

Co-Chairs Cohen and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Slap and Palm, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~130 land trusts. We advocate for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and work to ensure the long-term strength and viability of Connecticut's land conservation community.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for the record in support of **Senate Bill No. 118, An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Polystyrene Products**, which would discontinue the use of certain polystyrene trays in schools and certain polystyrene containers for food from restaurants.

Successful land conservation is as much about the perpetual care of the habitats and other conservation values of the land as it is about securing the legal protection of the land to begin with. At every level, both public and private, we need to continue to do whatever we can to ensure continued quality and active stewardship and management of conservation lands throughout the state. With the majority of Connecticut's land trusts operating on the backs of volunteers -- and municipalities hampered by budgetary constraints -- this is no easy task.

Polystyrene litter is bad for the environment, including the marine life, birds, and other wildlife that ingest it. Reducing the use and distribution of polystyrene will help to keep our lands and waters clean and protect wildlife and their habitats throughout the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments, and for all you do. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

