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February 19, 2020

Dear Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Norwalk River Watershed Association (NRWA) and its 1500 active members and participants, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 99 to restrict the use and distribution of polystyrene products across the state.

Our organization and volunteers from the seven watershed towns pick up over 2000 pounds of trash from the Norwalk River every year. It is troubling to see how much of the problem is plastic trash, including polystyrene trays, cups, and packaging. The polystyrene is particularly difficult to remove from the muddy shores and grasses along the river as it breaks into bits easily. The area in Norwalk below the Maritime Aquarium, for example, is literally blanketed in bits of polystyrene. There aren't enough volunteer fingers in the world to begin to pick up all of these bits, so they continue to wash to the Sound where they enter our food system.

It is time to act sensibly and stop producing these single-use plastic trash items that are used for mere minutes but last decades in our environment where they threaten human health and the environment. Let's remove this fossil-fuel based trash from our landfills and from our riverbanks now.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer
President, Norwalk River Watershed Association

[New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Wilton, Lewisboro NY](#)

