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Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) is writing in support of Stamford's proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE BANNING OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS BY FOOD OR BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The intention of this ordinance is to reduce the use of single-use plastic straws and stirrers.

The harms from plastic are two-fold: Humans and other living creatures are harmed from the toxins emitted from plastic production and in plastic products. In addition, our environment is harmed directly by discarded plastic items.

EHHI is working to reduce the use of plastic because of a growing body of scientific research that shows the impact on human health from chemicals in plastic. Two groups of chemicals, phthalates and bisphenols, are of special concern. These chemicals are used to respectively soften or harden plastic.

One of the bisphenols, BPA, and phthalates have been found in human stool samples collected all over the globe. Both groups of chemicals cause health problems including endocrine disruption, diabetes, cancer, obesity, ADHD and heart problems, and they can do this at even low doses. As with other chemicals, they may present an increased risk to infants and children.

Plastic straws and stirrers pollute our streets, waterways, and Long Island Sound. Plastic pollution is forecast to outweigh all the fish in the sea by 2050.

Because of these harms, and because this legislation will reduce Stamford's use of plastic, EHHI supports this ordinance.

Thank you for your attention,

Patricia Taylor
Director of the Plastics Project, Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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