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**Testimony in Support of the Nominations of:
Robert J. Klee, to be the Commissioner of the CT DEEP
Steven Reviczky, to be the Commissioner of the Dept of Agriculture**

**To the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Submitted by: Amy Blaymore Paterson, Esq., Executive Director
January 30, 2015**

Co-Chairs Janowski, Duff and members of the Committee -

On behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC), I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of the nominations of Robert J. Klee as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Steven Reviczky as Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture (DoAg).

CLCC serves as the umbrella organization for the state's land conservation community, working with land trusts (now numbering 137+), other conservation and advocacy organizations, government entities and individuals to increase the pace, quality, scale and permanency of land conservation in Connecticut while assuring the perpetual, high quality stewardship of conserved lands in the state.

As a coalition organization, partnerships are essential to our work, which includes helping the state achieve its goal of conserving 21% of its land area by the year 2023. To that end, CLCC's partnership with DEEP is particularly important and we are proud of the strong working relationship that we have built with Commissioner Klee and his staff.

Commissioner Klee has proven himself to be a stalwart defender of the conservation side of the agency, displaying a keen insight into the importance of natural resource protection to the state's economy and quality of life. The Commissioner and his staff at DEEP are accessible to CLCC and our members and willing to work with us in addressing the issues that are critical to the advancement of land conservation in Connecticut.

The state's farmland preservation programs and policies are also of tremendous importance to Connecticut's land trusts and the communities in which they work to preserve land. We are therefore appreciative of the opportunity to continue to work with Commissioner Reviczky and his staff at DoAg on not only increasing the pace of state farmland preservation efforts but also in helping to foster a growing synergy between the farmland preservation and land conservation programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for these nominations.

