

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Comments on Senate Bill No. 945
Planning and Development Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Esq., Executive Director
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
March 10, 2017

Co-Chairs Cassano, Lemar, and Logan, and Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present comments on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) regarding **Raised Senate Bill No. 945 (SB 945), An Act Concerning the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority.**

As the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its 137+/- land trusts, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community in Connecticut.

Ensuring that existing laws that protect Class I and II Watershed Lands are not weakened is a priority for CLCC. To that end, CLCC joins Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound and other organizations in requesting additional language be added to the end of SB 945:

"Nothing in this act shall be construed as to affect the authority or oversight of the Department of Public Health."

Adding this language helps to clarify that any amendments to the act do not diminish or otherwise change DPH's regulatory oversight over these lands.

We also contend that SB 945's definition of "noncore business" is more expansive than originally proposed in that it includes Class II renewable energy sources. We respectfully request that the language be limited to Class I renewables through the following modification of lines 91-100:

"noncore business" means an activity to be located on property other than class I or class II land owned by the authority that is related to water, environment, agriculture or an energy project consisting of either a renewable fuel resource as defined in subsection (a)(20) of section 16-1 of the general statutes or a combined heat and power system as defined in said section, but excluding wind sources located within the district; "affiliated business entity" means a corporation, a limited liability company or a limited partnership controlled directly or indirectly by the authority that conducts or invests in a noncore business.

On behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, I thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

