

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

September 2, 2016

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Dear Candidate,

A critical, bi-partisan issue for the coming General Assembly session is how to protect the beauty of Connecticut and support economically viable, healthy communities through land conservation. Connecticut has fallen far short of its conservation goals and has drastically cut funding for state and other programs protecting our environment. As a result, we are in danger of precipitous and potentially irreversible damage to the quality of clean air, water, wildlife, and recreational resources our state has treasured.

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; please consider us your primary resource for land conservation issues statewide.

Among CLCC's (and your) constituents are land trusts (there are 137+ in Connecticut), municipal conservation commissions, garden clubs, and local and statewide conservation advocacy groups – each managed, supported, and governed by concerned residents within their communities.

CLCC works with members of the legislature on policy issues impacting land conservation in Connecticut. During the 2017 session, CLCC will be asking legislators to support the following issues:

- A constitutional amendment strengthening the protection of state conservation lands. With bi-partisan support, this bill passed both chambers in 2016 and needs to pass again in 2017 to make it onto the 2018 ballot.
- Protecting the Community Investment Act, which provides a dedicated source of funding for state open space, farmland preservation/dairy support, historic properties, and affordable housing programs.
- Legislation authorizing municipalities a local option to implement a small (up to 1%) conveyance fee on buyers of real estate, to support land conservation (funding farm and forest protection) and stewardship of local public lands.



- Bonding for land conservation programs, including the Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, the Recreational Trails & Greenways Program and other key sources of land conservation funding.
- Protecting DEEP's budget and staffing that affect land conservation, state parks and forests, and wise land use.

Enclosed is a primer on land conservation facts, terms and laws which we hope you will find helpful. CLCC looks forward to having a strong bipartisan working relationship with members of the General Assembly. We are happy to discuss land conservation concerns that may arise in your district; please contact me via abpaterson@ctconservation.org or (860) 614-8537.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the public as a member of the General Assembly in the coming session.

Sincerely,



Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director

cc: Michael Dugan, Capitol Consulting (CLCC's Contract Lobbyist)