

# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

## 2020 State Policy and Funding Priorities

### Incentivize Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Climate Resilience

- **ENABLE** municipalities with an option to establish a limited buyer's conveyance fee program to fund the purchase, preservation, and stewardship of open space, forest, and farm lands; to implement climate resilience, mitigation or adaptation strategies; to match certain state environmental grant programs; and for other environmental projects.
- **INCORPORATE** open space, agricultural land, and other natural climate solutions into Connecticut's goals to mitigate climate change through policy and legislation.
- **PROTECT** existing tax exemptions that benefit land conservation and **PURSUE** new tax incentives for individuals to encourage land conservation.
- **ESTABLISH** a public-private partnership to offer competitive matching grants to qualified Connecticut land trusts for programs that serve to advance land conservation through: (i) organizational capacity building; (ii) collaboration; (iii) stewardship and resource management; and (v) conservation transaction support.

### Support Funding and Staff for Land Conservation and Farmland Protection Programs

- **ENSURE** consistent and increased funding for state land conservation programs including Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program, Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, Recreational Trails & Greenways Program, and the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program.
- **PROTECT** the integrity of the Community Investment Act and **ENSURE** the funds stay intact and dedicated.
- **ENSURE** Passport to the Parks funds stay intact and dedicated.

## 2020 Federal Policy and Funding Priorities

- **SUPPORT** passage of and appropriations for critical federal conservation programs, including: Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), Land & Water Conservation Fund, USDA Conservation Title Programs (*Including the Farm Bill*), USDA Forest Service Programs (*including Forest Legacy Program*) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs (*including State Wildlife Grants Program*)
- **PROTECT** tax laws and regulations that incentivize charitable giving to land trusts and other non-profits.
- **OPPOSE** roll-backs of laws and regulations which protect land, water, air, and other natural resources.

*The Connecticut Land Conservation Council advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community in Connecticut.*

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