

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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