

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

2021 Conservation Policy and Funding Priorities

Incentivize Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Climate Resilience

- **ENABLE** communities to address conservation and climate change at the local level through an option to establish a limited buyer's conveyance fee program. The funds may be used to: purchase, preserve, and steward open space, forest, and farm lands; implement climate resilience, mitigation or adaptation strategies; match certain state environmental grant programs; fund other environmental projects including brownfields remediation, urban forestry and tree-planting; and repayment of municipal bonds obtained for any of the foregoing purposes.
- **INCORPORATE** forest, open space, agricultural land, and other nature-based climate solutions into Connecticut's goals and implementation plans to mitigate climate change through policy and legislation, including through the establishment of a state "No Net Loss of Forest" Policy.
- **PROTECT** existing tax exemptions that benefit land trusts and land conservation and **SUPPORT** new tax incentives for individuals to encourage land conservation.

Support Funding and Staff for Land Conservation and Farmland Protection Programs

- **PROTECT** the integrity of the Community Investment Act and **ENSURE** the funds stay intact and dedicated.
- **ENSURE** consistent and increased funding for state land conservation programs including Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program, Urban Green and Community Garden Program, Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, Recreational Trails & Greenways Program, and the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program.
- **SUPPORT** CT DEEP by promptly filling vacancies and new positions to ensure the agency may efficiently and effectively meet its mission and maintain service levels.

2021 Federal Policy and Funding Priorities

- **SUPPORT** passage of and appropriations for critical federal conservation programs, including: Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), USDA Conservation Title (*Including the Farm Bill*) and Forest Service (*including Forest Legacy Program*) Programs, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs (*including State Wildlife Grants Program*).
- **SUPPORT** efforts to expand federal land protection programs to allow third-party holders.
- **LEVERAGE** and **ALLOCATE** the full amount of federal funding obligated to Connecticut via the now permanently authorized and fully funded Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for conservation efforts.
- **SUPPORT** efforts to establish conservation corps programs through bills such as RENEW Conservation Corps Act.
- **PROTECT** tax laws and regulations that incentivize charitable giving to land trusts and other non-profits and **SUPPORT** legislation to put an end to abusive conservation easement tax shelters.

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