

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony
H.J. Resolution No. 53
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Esq., Executive Director
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
February 10, 2021

Co-Chairs Cohen and Borer, Vice-Chairs Slap and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in strong support of **H.J. No. 53: Resolution Proposing The Adoption Of The Long Island Sound Blue Plan.**

As the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its 130+ 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.

"We all live downstream!" In Connecticut, almost the entire area of the state lies in the Long Island Sound Watershed. Land trusts throughout the state play a key role in conserving undeveloped land *in fee* and/or by holding conservation easements that protect the natural resources that are essential to ensuring a healthy watershed and ultimately protecting the Long Island Sound. The Blue Plan helps to ensure that these investments in conserving the state's watersheds are protected by the preservation of the ecosystems, resources, and traditional uses of Long Island Sound.

Based upon "meaningful public participation, sound science, a transparent process, coordination and collaboration, and a commitment to adaptive management"¹ The Blue Plan is a state-of-the-art approach for helping to inventory and sustain the ecological quality of the Sound while also guiding future uses and interests in the Sound's waters and submerged lands.

As land trusts, municipalities, and the state of Connecticut continue to invest in the conservation of critical watershed land and natural resources, the Blue Plan will ensure that there is a science-based, fair, effective, and efficient system in place for protecting the Sound now and for generations to come.

On behalf of CLCC, I thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/LIS-Blue-Plan/Long-Island-Sound-Blue-Plan-Home>

