

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1145
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
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Co-Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~130 land trusts. We advocate for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and work to ensure the long-term strength and viability of Connecticut's land conservation community.

As a coalition organization, CLCC works with Connecticut's robust land trust community as well as DEEP, municipalities, and other entities committed to land conservation and addressing climate change at every level. CLCC was a member of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) Forests Sub-Group, a member of the Policy on Resilient Forests for Connecticut's Future (PRFCT Future) Working Group, and, most recently, a participant in the GC3 Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions Working Group.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony regarding **Senate Bill 1145, An Act Concerning the Establishment of Sector Specific Subtargets for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and Regulating Emissions of Small Off-Road Engines**. In particular, CLCC supports Sections 2-4 and 7 of the bill, which recognize the value of the state's natural and working lands in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of the changing climate.

The *GC3 Phase 1 Report: Near-Term Actions* (January 2021), *Governor's Executive Order No. 21-3* (December 2021), as well as a multitude of GC3 Natural and Working Lands (WNL) Working Group reports ('collectively "GC3 Recommendations"') recognize that our state's forestlands, wetlands, other natural areas, and working lands are among our strongest defenses against the impacts of climate change. The benefits of these nature-based climate solutions to public health, the economy, and environment include, but are not limited to protecting biodiversity, reducing the risks and impacts of flooding, filtering pollutants from the air and water, and absorbing and storing carbon (a.k.a. negative emissions.) It is essential that these benefits are considered at every level of planning and management of our state's natural resources, including as part of a comprehensive strategy in addressing the climate crisis.

Consistent with the GC3 Recommendations, Sections 2-4 and 7 of SB 1145 recognize the value of nature-based solutions in the state's overall climate response by, *inter alia*, defining negative emissions and negative emissions technology, requiring the inclusion of negative emissions in the greenhouse gas inventory and in considering the development of policies, regulations, and technologies to increase and account for negative emissions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill, and for all you do.

