

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5598
Judiciary Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
Connecticut Land Conservation Council
March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice-Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council concerning **Raised H.B. 5598, An Act Concerning a Property Owner's Liability for the Expenses of Removing a Fallen Tree or Limb.**

As the statewide umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~137 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 land conservation in Connecticut.

While not taking a position on the balance of the bill, CLCC would like to be on record as supporting Section 1 (e) which exempts land owned in fee or by conservation easement by land trusts and other 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, water companies, municipalities, as well as by private landowners enrolled in the Public Act 490 program – all key partners in the state's land conservation efforts.

As noted by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, we also respectfully ask the Committee to clarify the bill language to ensure that Section 1(e) extends to the State of Connecticut with respect to potential liability associated with state-owned lands.

We thank the committee for your consideration and for this opportunity to submit comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

