

C O N N E C T I C U T  
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill Nos. 466, 488-492  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director  
April 12, 2022

Co-Chairs Flexer and Fox, Vice-Chairs Haskell and Thomas, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and members of the Government Administration and Elections 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 the land conservation community in Connecticut.*

CLCC respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill Nos. 466, 488-492 (collectively "Land Conveyance Bills") due to a general lack of detail with respect to each bill, including as follows:

**Description and details regarding intended use:** Each bill should include details regarding the intended use of the property in order to assess the public benefits of the conveyance. This information is especially important when a property is all or partially undeveloped and may contain valuable natural resources which will require special protections from proposed development activities. Of the six Land Conveyance Bills, only two (SB 489 and SB490) provide specific information with respect to the required use of the property.

**Understanding how consideration for the conveyance is determined and why reverter clauses are included in some but not all bills:** Information should be available to the public as to why some properties are proposed for sale for fair market value while others are being conveyed only for administrative costs. Likewise, the public should know why some of the bills include a right of reverter if the property isn't used as intended, and some do not.

**We furthermore associate our testimony with that of Eric Hammerling of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony with respect to each proposed conveyance pursuant to the process required by the constitutional amendment approved by the public in November, 2018. However, to ensure that the purpose of that amendment – to provide greater transparency and an opportunity for informed public input prior to the transfer of public lands – is fully realized, the public should have access to the same information and level of detail with respect to each proposed transfer as received by the members of the Connecticut General Assembly.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments, and for all you do. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

