

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 261, Sections 5 and 6
Transportation Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Esq., Executive Director
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Chairman Lemar, Vice-Chairs Cassano and Simms, Ranking Members Carney and Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council regarding **SB 261, An Act Concerning Recommendations By The Department Of Motor Vehicles**. Our testimony is limited to **Sections 5 and 6**, which we support with a suggested modification.

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.

The introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species is a serious problem for land trusts and communities across the state – impacting water quality, recreational activities, property values, and the overall health of the environment. SB 261 builds upon existing legislation (PA 18-101 and PA 19-190), establishing a commemorative license plate program to provide a source of revenue for municipalities to help address this insidious problem. CLCC supports Sections 5 and 6 which add detail and specificity with respect to the fees charged and revenue generated by the plate.

In addition, consistent with changes made by PA 19-190, Section 6 (d) of SB 261 corrects the name of the account to include “rivers.” In furtherance of that correction, as noted by Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, CLCC respectfully suggests also changing the name of the commemorative license plate to “Save Our Lakes and Rivers” to more accurately reflect the extension of the use of the funds to address invasives in rivers throughout the state.

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.

