

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5523
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
March 13, 2026

Co-Chairs Lopes and Parker, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Bumgardner, 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 ~117 land trusts. CLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization operating statewide. Our mission is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of **House Bill No. 5523, An Act Concerning Tribal Comanagement of Wildlife and Fisheries**, which would establish a cooperative framework between the State of Connecticut and Native American tribes for the shared stewardship of wildlife and fisheries resources.

CLCC supports policies that broaden participation in conservation and strengthen the stewardship of Connecticut's natural resources through meaningful partnerships. HB 5523 recognizes the essential role that Tribal Nations have traditionally played in helping care for natural lands and waters and creates a pathway for more collaborative management of these shared resources. By encouraging coordination between the state and tribal governments, this bill offers an opportunity to build stronger relationships, incorporate diverse perspectives in natural resource stewardship, support tribal food sovereignty, and elevate cultural connections to the land and water.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments and for all you do. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

