

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1154
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
January 31, 2025

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 **Senate Bill No. 1154, An Act Concerning the Sale of Certain Balloons**, which seeks to prohibit the sale of helium and other lighter-than-air gas balloons that are not biodegradable.

Land conservation is as much about the perpetual care of the habitats and other conservation values of the land as it is about securing the legal protection of the property. Land stewardship is a huge responsibility of land trusts, community parks, and green space volunteers and staff. Their daily tasks include implementing management plans, building and maintaining trails, battling invasives, monitoring for violations of conservation easements, encroachments, and other illegal activity, and picking up trash. In addition to becoming a common source of litter in the landscape and waterways of the state, helium balloons pose severe threats to birds, fish, and other wildlife through ingestion and entanglement.

SB 1154 would help to address some of the hazards these balloons pose to the environment, support stewardship of conservation lands and waters, and protect wildlife and their habitats throughout the state.

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

