

CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 452  
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 **Senate Bill No. 452, An Act Concerning the Release of Lighter-Than-Air Balloons.**

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 to begin with. Land stewardship is a major responsibility for land trusts, municipal 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 state's landscape and waterways, helium balloons pose severe harm to birds, fish, and other wildlife through ingestion and entanglement.

By prohibiting the sale of helium for filling lighter-than-air balloons, SB 452 would help 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.

