

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Joint Resolution No. 37
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
March 4, 2026

Co-Chairs Flexer and Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Honig, Morrin Bello, and Osborne, 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 ~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 Joint Resolution No. 37, Resolution Proposing An Amendment to the State Constitution Concerning Environmental Rights.**

SJ 37 proposes an Environmental Rights Amendment to the Connecticut Constitution. The resolution codifies: (1) the rights of all Connecticut residents to a clean environment, stable climate, and sustainable ecosystem and recognizes these rights as essential to the public's public health, safety, and general welfare, particularly in underserved and vulnerable communities that bear the brunt of environmental and health hazards; and (2) the role of government, at every level, as trustee of the state's natural resources – meaning, an affirmative duty to protect these natural resources.

In November 2019, in an emphatic display of commitment to environmental protection, the public demonstrated its firm desire to better protect public lands through a Constitutional Amendment, as Ballot Question #2 passed resoundingly. We urge the Committee to move SJ 37 through the legislative process, recognizing the importance of the public's voice in this matter and providing the people of Connecticut with the same opportunity to decide on an Environmental Rights Amendment to our Constitution.

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.

