

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5155
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
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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. 5155, An Act Concerning Pesticide Reporting Modernization.**

If approved, HB 5155 would require CT DEEP to modernize the way pesticide use information is collected and made available to the public, researchers, and government agencies. Accurate, accessible data on pesticide use, including where, how much, and what types are being applied, is critical for understanding cumulative impacts on conserved lands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem health. As identified by the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, the state's current reporting system relies on outdated processes that limit agencies, researchers, and the public's ability to analyze trends and respond proactively to emerging environmental risks.

Healthy ecosystems form the foundation of nature-based solutions that help address climate change, improve water quality, support biodiversity, and protect public health. However, pesticide contamination poses risks to these systems. Monitoring data indicate pesticides in Connecticut groundwater and rivers, with documented impacts on aquatic life. For land trusts and conservation practitioners working to conserve and restore wetlands, improve riparian buffers, and protect wildlife habitat, better information on pesticide use is essential to guiding stewardship practices and prioritizing conservation investments that deliver the greatest ecological benefit.

The bill aims to close key data gaps, including tracking treated seeds—a source of pesticide use that currently falls outside monitoring requirements—providing information that is essential to understanding pesticide impacts on our environment. Improved reporting will strengthen the state's ability to identify contamination sources, assess risks to sensitive habitats, and implement targeted solutions that protect both working and natural lands.

In conclusion, CT needs a modern, transparent data system to provide access to reliable information, support equitable protection of natural resources, deliver transparency, build public trust, and ensure that conservation strategies benefit all communities.

With respect to the suggested improvements to the bill, CLCC aligns our testimony with that of Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy at Audubon CT - National Audubon Society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your leadership on these important issues. I would be happy to answer any questions.

