

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5156
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
February 20, 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. 5156, An Act Concerning A Climate Change Superfund.**

CLCC supports HB 5156 and its overarching goal of establishing a dedicated financial reserve to fund climate adaptive infrastructure projects that help offset damage caused by climate pollution. Similar to initiatives adopted in other states and proposals previously introduced in Connecticut, this legislation seeks to hold fossil fuel extractors, refiners, and other related entities, as defined under the bill, accountable for their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring resources are available to address the rising costs of climate impacts.

HB 5156 recognizes environmental justice considerations in addressing climate impacts. Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, including those with fewer resources, higher exposure to environmental hazards, and limited access to green space and natural infrastructure. Ensuring that investments prioritize equitable outcomes and direct resources to communities most affected by climate risks will help strengthen resilience statewide while advancing fairness and long-term public health.

In alignment with state policy, CLCC strongly supports the bill's recognition of nature-based solutions as integral to climate resilience strategies. Protecting and restoring forestlands, wetlands, healthy soils, riparian buffers, and other natural systems strengthens ecosystem stability while complementing traditional infrastructure investments. These approaches provide multiple co-benefits, including reducing flood risk, improving air and water quality, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing carbon sequestration—all while achieving cost-effective, durable resilience outcomes.

In conclusion, as Connecticut continues to confront the accelerating impacts of climate change, especially in the face of federal deregulation and policy rollbacks, HB 5156 establishes an important framework for fairness and accountability by requiring major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions to support a dedicated fund that invests in climate resilience, mitigation, and adaptation projects that address the damages their activities have helped to create.

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

