

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5330
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. 5330, An Act Concerning Certain Wildlife Action Plans.

HB 5330 takes important steps to ensure that Connecticut's wildlife conservation efforts are strategically aligned with CT DEEP's 2025 Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). In our July 2025 comments on the draft WAP, CLCC strongly supported its habitat-based, landscape-scale framework—but emphasized that its ambitious goals will only be realized with sufficient staffing, coordination, and dedicated funding.

We appreciate that HB 5330 would establish a working group to plan for sustainable funding to implement the WAP; clarify that donations to the wildlife conservation program are allocated directly to this work; and add a wildlife veterinarian to expand Connecticut's ability to monitor, diagnose, and respond to emerging wildlife health needs.

These provisions reflect the very concerns we raised in our WAP comments: that without adequate personnel and clearly directed resources, implementation will fall short. In particular, strengthening program alignment and planning for long-term funding are essential to protecting habitats across Connecticut's working and natural lands, including the Conservation Opportunity Areas identified in the WAP.

Connecticut's land trusts stand ready to partner with CT DEEP in advancing habitat protection, monitoring, and stewardship. HB 5330 helps ensure the agency has the structure, expertise, and clarity on funding necessary to make those partnerships effective.

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

