

September 2, 2016

Dear Candidate.

STEERING COMMITTEE Alicia Sullivan, Chair

Trust for Public Land

Catherine Rawson, Vice-Chair

Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust

**Tim Abbott** 

Litchfield Hills Greenprint

David Bingham

Salem Land Trust

**Sandy Breslin** 

Bethany Inland Wetlands Commission

**David Brown** *Middlesex Land Trust* 

**Margot Burns** 

Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments

**Kevin Case** 

Land Trust Alliance

**Eric Hammerling** 

Connecticut Forest & Park Association

**Stewart Hudson** 

Audubon Connecticut

Michael Hveem

Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust

**Connie Manes** 

Kent Land Trust

**Elisabeth Moore** 

Connecticut Farmland Trust

**Shirley Nichols** 

Darien Land Trust

**David Sutherland** 

The Nature Conservancy

**Chuck Toal** 

Colchester Land Trust

**Humphrey Tyler** 

Connecticut River Watershed

STAFF

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Executive Director

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A critical, bi-partisan issue for the coming General Assembly session is how to protect the beauty of Connecticut and support economically viable, healthy communities through land conservation. Connecticut has fallen far short of its conservation goals and has drastically cut funding for state and other programs protecting our environment. As a result, we are in danger of precipitous and potentially irreversible damage to the quality of clean air, water, wildlife, and recreational resources our state has treasured.

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community; please consider us your primary resource for land conservation issues statewide.

Among CLCC's (and your) constituents are land trusts (there are 137+ in Connecticut), municipal conservation commissions, garden clubs, and local and statewide conservation advocacy groups – each managed, supported, and governed by concerned residents within their communities.

CLCC works with members of the legislature on policy issues impacting land conservation in Connecticut. During the 2017 session, CLCC will be asking legislators to support the following issues:

conserva	A constitutional amendment strengthening the protection of state ation lands. With bi-partisan support, this bill passed both chambers in d needs to pass again in 2017 to make it onto the 2018 ballot.
source c	Protecting the Community Investment Act, which provides a dedicated of funding for state open space, farmland preservation/dairy support, properties, and affordable housing programs.
	egislation authorizing municipalities a local option to implement a small %) conveyance fee on buyers of real estate, to support land conservation

(funding farm and forest protection) and stewardship of local public lands.



□ Bonding for land conservation programs, including the Open Space & Watershed Lan Acquisition Grant Program, the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, the Recreational Trails & Greenways Program and other key sources of land conservation fundin	
Protecting DEEP's budget and staffing that affect land conservation, state parks and forests, and wise land use.	

Enclosed is a primer on land conservation facts, terms and laws which we hope you will find helpful. CLCC looks forward to having a strong bipartisan working relationship with members of the General Assembly. We are happy to discuss land conservation concerns that may arise in your district; please contact me via <a href="mailto:abpaterson@ctconservation.org">abpaterson@ctconservation.org</a> or (860) 614-8537.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the public as a member of the General Assembly in the coming session.

Sincerely,

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director

cc: Michael Dugan, Capitol Consulting (CLCC's Contract Lobbyist)