

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Public hearings are an integral part of the legislative process, serving as a valuable opportunity for organizations and individuals to share their opinions and urge Committees to support or oppose pending legislation. Below are some tips on how to prepare for and engage your legislators at a public hearing.

Before the Hearing

Research the issue—Gather information on the bill you are interested in, including the current text, co-sponsors, up-to-date actions on the bill, who introduced it, and its purpose/impacts. You can do so at the CGA's website [HERE](#) or by calling the bill status information room at (860) 240-0555.

Plan your remarks—Your time will be limited, so it's important to map out what you're going to say in advance of the hearing so that your views and reasoning will be as clear and concise as possible. Writing out your testimony word for word or putting together talking points are both effective ways to ensure that you stay organized and get your point across.

If you'd like to submit written testimony you can email your written testimony to appropriate committees directly or you can submit your written remarks at the hearing, but be sure to bring copies for all of the committee members as well as their staff.

Finding the hearing room—The majority of Committee proceedings are held at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. See below for a list of relevant committees, their contact information and room numbers.

- **Appropriations:** Co-Chairs, Sen. Cathy Osten, Rep. Toni Walker; Vice Chairs, Sen. Joan Hartley, Rep. Michael Dimassa; Ranking Members, Sen. Paul Formica, Rep. Gail Lavielle. Room 2700 LOB, (860) 240-0390.
 - **Subcommittee on Conservation and Development:** Co-Chairs, Sen. Joan Hartley, Rep. Ezequiel Santiago; Ranking Members, Sen. Craig Miner, Rep. David Wilson
 - **Public hearing testimony:** apptestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **Energy and Technology:** Co-Chairs, Sen. Norm Needleman, Rep. David Arconti; Vice Chairs, Sen. John Fonfara, Rep. Raghbir Allie-Brennan; Ranking Members, Sen. Paul Formica, Rep. Charles Ferraro. Room 3900 LOB, (860) 240-0430.
 - **Public hearing testimony:** ettestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **Environment:** Co-Chairs, Sen. Christine Cohen, Rep. Mike Demicco; Vice Chairs, Sen. Julie Kushner, Rep. Joe Gresko; Ranking Members, Sen. Craig Miner, Rep. Stephen Harding. Room 3200, (860) 240-0440
 - **Public hearing testimony:** envtestimony@cga.ct.gov
- **Planning & Development:** Co-Chairs, Sen. Steve Cassano, Rep. Cristin McCarthy-Vahey; Vice Chairs, Sen. Dennis Bradley, Rep. Andre Baker; Ranking Members, Sen. Dan Champagne, Rep. Tami Zawistowski; Room 2100, (860) 240-0550.
 - **Public hearing testimony:** pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov

At the Hearing

Signing up—In order to be included in the queue, you'll need to sign up beforehand. Sign-up sheets are generally available outside of the hearing room an hour before proceedings commence and may ask for your name, organization, the bills you'll be addressing, and potentially whether you oppose or support the legislation up for consideration.

When it's your turn to speak—Upon being called, begin by introducing yourself, mention your town, and the bill number and title you'll be addressing. From there, state your support, opposition, or desire to improve the bill at the

outset of your remarks then explain, and remain at the microphone
for a moment before returning to

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