

CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 237  
Environment Committee  
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Esq., Executive Director  
Connecticut Land Conservation Council  
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Co-Chairs Cohen and Demicco, Vice-Chairs Gresko and Kushner, Ranking Members Harding and Miner, and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in support of **Senate Bill No. 237, AN ACT DESIGNATING ROCKY TOP AND YORK HILL AS PROTECTED TRAPROCK RIDGES. (SB 237)**

As the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its 137+/- land trusts, 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 in Connecticut.

Traprock ridge environments offer unique plant and wildlife habitats, opportunities for recreation and education, and beautiful vistas; as such they are often high priorities for conservation by municipalities and land trusts. Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-1aa, *et. seq.*, (Ridgeline Protection Act of 1995, as amended) was enacted in recognition of the importance for municipalities to have authority to protect this unique and important resource and to regulate development on and near traprock ridges.

SB 237 would add Rocky Top/York Hill to the list of traprock ridges eligible for protection under the Connecticut General Statutes, enabling the town of Hamden to enact zoning regulations to provide for development restrictions in the statutory setback area to better protect this ridgeline of regional significance.

We thank the Committee for raising SB 237 and ask for your support.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments. As always, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have and provide additional information about the wonderful land conservation work undertaken every day in communities across the state.

