

CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5002  
Committee on Energy and Technology  
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Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in support of **House Bill No. 5002, An Act Concerning the Development of a Green New Deal** (HB 5002).

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.

In the face of climate change, we need to use every available tool to keep our planet, and life as we know it, as stable as possible. One of these tools is land conservation, which provides the invaluable service of carbon sequestration, which occurs when trees and other vegetation "soak up" harmful carbon emissions from the air. Land conservation is typically only thought of for farming, recreation, or aesthetic purposes, however your favorite state park, wildlife refuge, apple orchard, or urban greenspace all double as air filters, helping people maintain healthy lifestyles well after they have left the trails.

In addition to sequestering carbon, land conservation is a critical element of local planning and development to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. For example, land conservation complements transit-oriented development which in turn reduces vehicle-related emissions from commuters. Land conservation also avoids overextending municipal infrastructure which takes considerable energy to install, operate, and maintain.

Beyond reducing our carbon footprint, land conservation promotes less polluted water and more balanced ecosystems, all of which are critical to protect as part of climate adaptation. Many conserved properties across the state are held in perpetuity, so there is no sunset date on their help in mitigating climate change. CLCC works with a



statewide network of land trusts that are standing by to do their part, often with the support of their municipalities.

In Connecticut's Green New Deal, CLCC would like to see land conservation included in the state's sustainability plan, alongside the critical coastal protection and renewable energy initiatives. As daunting and threatening as climate change is, land conservation is one tried and true solution that would work for Connecticut. Please think of your children, their children, and the generations to come that will inherit a polluted world. Supporting HB 5002, and land conservation generally, are actions you can take now that will have a positive impact on the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I welcome any questions.