



TESTIMONY ON MULTIPLE BILLS
January 30, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for Multiple bills on the 1/30/23 public hearing agenda. We work closely with the organizations and experts leading these initiatives, and join their efforts to pass these bills:

SB 122 Replanting of Trees in Public Areas Cleared By Utility Companies

HB 6479 Climate Resiliency Funds and Projects

HB 6480 Restoration of Eel Grass

HB 6481 Intentional Release of Certain Balloons

HB 6482 Bonding for Bikeways, Greenways and Recreational Trails

HB 6483 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

HB 6484 Certain Harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs

HB6485 Natural Organic Reduction and Green Burials

CTLCV is also in support of the concepts behind the following bills, but the provisions require significant **AMENDMENTS** to ensure they are beneficial to the environment:

HB 6486 Extended Producer Responsibility for Tires (EPR)

While CTLCV supports EPR for tires, the bill as written does not accomplish that goal. CTLCV has submitted separate testimony on HB 6486 outlining our concerns and recommendations.

HB 6485 Natural Organic Reduction and Green Burials

CTLCV is thrilled that the Committee is considering Green Burial legislation this year. We ask that you not tie this policy to the Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) which is already oversubscribed, and to work with the Land Trust community to design the program details.

SB 896 Tree Removal on Properties Under the Control of DEEP

It is critical that the state provide essential staff and funding resources to help DEEP fulfill all of the above. DEEP staff has been reduced to dangerously low levels, and we urge members of the Environment Committee to advocate for long overdue increases to their budget. Without it, efforts to improve state policy will always be in jeopardy.

Thank you for your commitment to our environment!

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