



March 4, 2022

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:

SB 236 AAC THE USE OF BACK-UP DIESEL GENERATORS FOR PURPOSES OF PEAK SHAVING

SB 239 AA PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HAWKS, RAPTORS AND OTHER WILDLIFE

SB 240 AAC THE USE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE TO MITIGATE SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS

SB 243 AAC CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

HB 5289 AAC NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, and 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 submit testimony on the following legislation:

SB 236 AAC THE USE OF BACK-UP DIESEL GENERATORS FOR PURPOSES OF PEAK SHAVING: SUPPORT

In 2021, the General Assembly passed legislation to incentivize construction of new, highly polluting data centers to be built in Connecticut without any committee review or public hearing. Data Centers consume 10 to 50 times the energy per floor space of a typical commercial office building. As our country's use of information technology grows, Data Center and server energy use is expected to grow as well. **Because data centers are one of the most energy-intensive building types, it is critical that the legislature take steps to mitigate the energy and emissions impacts that these facilities can cause.** SB 236 would establish emission, use and exhaust standards for certain diesel generators that Data Centers are currently allowed to use. To help mitigate the potential for this major new source of pollution in our state, we support the provisions of SB 236 and urge the committee to pass the bill.

SB 239 AA PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HAWKS, RAPTORS AND OTHER WILDLIFE: SUPPORT

Wildlife rehabilitators and biologists are seeing Connecticut's Birds of Prey dying from rodenticide poisoning at alarming rates. Throughout years of using toxic rodenticides, rats and mice have built up a tolerance and can consume many of them without dying. However, **hawks, owls, raptors, pets and other animals unknowingly consume this poisoned prey and suffer painful side effects or death.** A recent study at TUFTS University Wildlife Clinic tested 43 red tailed hawks and found 100% tested positive for rodenticides. We encourage the committee to support this legislation.

SB 240 AAC THE USE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE TO MITIGATE SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS: SUPPORT

In recent years, warnings about salt contamination of the nation's water supplies and fresh water systems have become urgent. This bill sets up a training and certification program for contractors doing winter road treatment. **The aim is to reduce salt contamination of state waters.** A recent study published in the National Academy of Science, titled "Road salt human safety and the rising salinity of our fresh waters," establishes the severity of the salt problem. It found a severe loss of key aquatic freshwater species due to excessive salinity. It also estimates that more than 20 million metric tons of salt are placed on US roads annually. We urge the committee to support this legislation as a first step in addressing this widespread problem.

SB 243 AAC CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES: SUPPORT

CTLCV fully supports this legislation which highlights the intersection of climate change mitigation and agriculture. The bill incentivizes climate-smart agricultural practices, with priority funding given to Black, indigenous, people of color, and new and beginning farmers. Agriculture practices are increasingly recognized as having a huge impact on our ability to **reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.** This bill follows the science-based recommendations included in the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) phase one report's section on Working and Natural Lands. It is an essential component of our state's mandate to address climate change and we strongly urge the Committee's support.

HB 5289 AAC NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS: SUPPORT

"Light Pollution" caused by artificial lights and sky glow around buildings can be fatal to migrating birds and it impacts hundreds of species. Light pollution can cause birds to have fatal nighttime collisions with windows and walls, or cause them to circle in confusion until dawn when they are subjected to other urban threats. Most birds in North America migrate at night, making it imperative to limit artificial light pollution to help protect them. HB 5289 can greatly **reduce bird mortality due to light pollution by reducing unnecessary lighting.** Dousing lights has the added benefit of reducing energy use and saving money. The greatest impact for migratory birds would be to reduce lighting during the overnight hours from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. with a focus on the nights of peak migration in Connecticut (spring dates of April 1 to May 31, and the fall dates of August 15 to November 15).

Thank you for taking the time to consider our testimony on these important issues.

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