



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT**  
SB 980 AAC AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE  
April 3, 2023

**To:** Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Fonfara and Rep. Horn, Ranking Members Sen. Martin and Rep. Cheeseman, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

**From:** Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of SB 980** to fund essential land conservation and recreational programs.

CTLCV strongly supports the Governor's Budget recommendation of **\$20 million for repair, renovation, and new construction in our State Parks and other recreational facilities.**

We also support Bond authorizations in the budget for CT DEEP that would provide **\$5 million/year for recreational trails and greenways**, and **\$10million/year for open space conservation.**

Outdoor recreational sites of all types grow in popularity each year. Much of the land throughout the State remains at risk of adverse development and sprawl which threaten our natural resources and compound the impacts of climate change on the health of our communities, forests, farms, soils, water, biodiversity, and native ecosystems. They are critical to tourism, local businesses, and overall health of CT's economy.

**These lands should be responsibly conserved with government investment that is consistent and sufficient to meet the need.**

Bonding for open space and for recreation, as provided for in the Governor's budget, will provide ongoing benefits long after the bonding is paid for. Please support the proposed budget for these important programs.

**Thank you for considering the future of our environment when you vote.**

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