



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

SB 9 AAC THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL AND STATE PLANNING, AND THE USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS AND SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES.

SB 1245 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RESILIENT CONNECTICUT STRATEGY.

March 3, 2025

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Connor Yakaitis, Deputy Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

CTLCV strongly supports SB 9, which strengthens Connecticut's climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, protects homebuyers and renters, and enhances environmental protections.

1. Empowering Homebuyers and Renters with Flood Risk Information

SB 9 ensures that Connecticut homebuyers and renters have access to critical flood risk information. Before closing on a mortgage, creditors must notify buyers that standard insurance does not cover flood damage. Additionally, residential condition reports and rental agreements must include flood disclosure notices with details such as:

- Whether the property is in a designated floodplain.
- Whether flood insurance is required.
- Whether the seller has received FEMA assistance.
- Whether there have been flood damage claims.

This transparency enables better-informed decisions when purchasing or renting properties in flood-prone areas.

2. Strengthening Climate Resiliency and Planning

The bill requires municipalities to enhance climate resiliency by:

- Submitting geospatial data on culverts and bridges.

- Identifying sea level rise impacts on evacuation and hazard mitigation plans.
- Updating conservation and development plans to address natural disasters and climate change impacts.

State funding for projects in floodways or coastal high hazard areas would be prohibited. Additionally, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) must update regulations to reflect current climate projections.

SB 9 also allows municipalities to establish "resiliency improvement districts," empowering them to:

- Reduce climate change risks and hazards.
- Support economic development and housing opportunities.
- Enhance infrastructure for resilience, environmental, and clean energy projects.

These districts can serve as a vital financing tool for climate adaptation without overburdening local landowners.

3. Enhancing Pesticide Regulations for Environmental Protection

CTLCV has consistently supported stronger laws to regulate the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides and the non-agricultural use of neonicotinoids. We would like the provisions in SB 9 to be consistent with the stronger legislation put forward in HB 6915 and HB 6916, respectively. Both of these poisons have been associated with deaths of non-target wildlife, pollution of our waterways, and other adverse environmental and public health impacts.

SB 9 provides essential tools to build Connecticut's resilience to climate change, protect homebuyers and renters, and preserve our environment. We urge you to support this critical legislation to ensure a sustainable and healthy future for all Connecticut residents.

SB 1245: Building a More Resilient Connecticut

In addition to SB9, CTLCV supports SB 1245 which includes many of the same resilience measures.

Connecticut regularly faces hurricanes, extreme temperatures, and flooding. Recent years have shown that we are not fully prepared for these extreme events. SB 1245 offers a critical opportunity to set a new

resilience standard, protecting our ecosystems, infrastructure, and quality of life.

Last year, a major flooding disaster tragically claimed the lives of three Connecticut residents. We mourn their loss and are deeply grateful to our first responders, municipal partners, and state agency staff who worked tirelessly to reduce the devastation.

SB 1245 introduces essential data, planning, and funding mechanisms to enhance resilience. The bill strategically integrates state and federal planning processes, maximizes efficiencies through Councils of Governments, and emphasizes data-driven approaches to identify risks, prioritize adaptation, and improve coordination between local and state governments.

The legislation calls for updated water supply and sewage disposal regulations to align with climate-driven changes in precipitation and temperature. These infrastructure updates are vital to maintaining our economy, natural resources, and public health.

SB 1245 also introduces flexible funding mechanisms tailored to local needs, including:

- Updating existing funding tools.
- Expanding transfer of development rights programs to direct growth to safer areas while protecting local tax bases.
- Establishing a tax increment financing mechanism to support resilient redevelopment.

Now is the time to continue our journey toward a more resilient Connecticut. We urge support for SB 1245 to safeguard our communities and prepare for the challenges ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of both SB 9 and SB 1245.

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