



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

August xx, 2023

Re: Conservation and Development Policies Plan 2025-30 (C&D Plan)

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The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) provides the following comments in response to OPM’s request for assistance in identifying potential policies, objectives, performance measurements and potential implementation methods to include in the state Conservation and Development Policies Plan 2025-30 (C&D Plan).

The Council submits an annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*, to the Governor on the status of Connecticut’s environment, including progress toward goals of the statewide environmental plan, with recommendations for remedying deficiencies of state programs. Through this effort, the Council analyzes over forty environmental indicators and their interrelationships, and the Council has determined that the majority of Connecticut’s key environmental indicators are strongly affected by a changing climate. Consequently, the Council believes that climate change mitigation and adaption should be a focus of the C&D Plan. Furthermore, since the revised C&D Plan would incorporate the period 2025-2030, it would be appropriate to consider the policies and priorities identified as “near term actions” from the Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3) Phase I report.¹

Topics identified in the Council’s annual report that warrant special attention in the revised C&D Plan, include but are not limited to reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; preservation of open space, forests, and farmland; protection of wetlands, riparian corridors, critical habitat, and water resources; improvement of air and water resources; and energy conservation and the efficient use of energy. Further, the Council supports policies that encourage development strategies that protect human health and the environment, create economic opportunities, and provide attractive and affordable neighborhoods for people of all income levels².

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta,
Executive Director

¹ Governor’s Council on Climate Change, Taking Action on Climate Change and Building a More Resilient Connecticut for All, recommendation 14; https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3_PhaseI_Report_Jan2021.pdf

² Environmental Protection Agency, Smart Growth; <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about-smart-growth>