



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 15, 2020

CONTACT: Office of the Treasurer, gabrielle.farrell@ct.gov

MOODY'S, S&P, FITCH, AND KROLL AFFIRM CONNECTICUT CREDIT RATINGS, MAINTAIN STABLE OUTLOOK

Seven Other States Have had Credit Rating Downgrades or Negative Outlooks Since the COVID Outbreak, While Connecticut Remains Stable

Hartford, CT - Today, Friday, May 15, 2020, Moody's Investors Service, S&P Global Ratings, Fitch Ratings, and Kroll Ratings affirmed the State of Connecticut's credit ratings and stable outlooks on the State's General Obligation bonds, following a review during the coronavirus pandemic. Moody's affirmed at 'A1'; S&P at 'A'; Fitch at 'A+'; and, Kroll at 'AA-'. The rating agency reports cite the State's sizable Budget Reserve Fund as a contributing factor to help position the State to weather the economic downturn.

"In these tough times, a little good news is more than welcome," said State Treasurer Shawn Wooden. "Earlier this week, OPM Secretary Melissa McCaw and I briefed the major credit rating agencies on the State's current position, outlook, and our response to COVID-19. Given the effects of the COVID-19 on our economy, maintaining our credit ratings and outlooks is an important independent assessment of Connecticut's fiscal stability. What matters most is that maintaining our credit standing allows us to continue to access funding for strategic investments for our state at attractive interest rates, saving taxpayers' money."

Seven other states have had credit rating downgrades or negative outlooks since the COVID outbreak, while Connecticut remained stable.

In addition, the credit rating agencies that rate the Special Tax Obligation, Transportation Infrastructure bonds, also affirmed those credit ratings and stable outlooks. The STO ratings are S&P at 'A+'; Fitch at 'A+'; and, Kroll at 'AA+'. Next week, an \$850 million Special Tax Obligation bond issue will be sold, which is the first transportation infrastructure offering since Treasurer Wooden took office.

Following the Special Tax Obligation sale, the Office of the Treasurer is scheduled to sell \$500 million of taxable General Obligation bonds by the end of May and \$400 million of tax-exempt

General Obligation bonds in June 2020.

“The affirmation of the State’s credit rating with stable outlooks should help to assure bond investors that Connecticut is well managed and positioned to address its current challenges,” continued State Treasurer Wooden. “As part of our carefully considered financing plans, my office requested the ratings reviews in advance of our three major State bond sales coming to market before the end of this fiscal year. We will continue our work to position the State to withstand the volatility and changes in the coming market cycles.”

###