



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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February 19, 2026

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Bumgardner, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: Proposed Raised Bill No. 5156 - An Act Concerning a Climate Change Superfund –
Support Concept

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council **SUPPORTS** the concept identified in Raised Bill 5156 that would create a climate change adaptation fund, to be administered by DEEP, to provide funding for climate change adaptive infrastructure projects, including nature based solutions in the state and reasonable administrative expenses. The Council strongly **SUPPORTS** the provisions of the proposed bill that would require DEEP to assess the adaptation needs and vulnerabilities of areas vital to the state's economy, normal functioning and the health and well-being of state residents; identify potential, proposed and ongoing climate adaptive infrastructure projects throughout the state; identify opportunities for alignment with existing federal, state and local funding streams; consult with stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, environmental advocates, relevant subject area experts and environmental justice communities; and provide opportunities for public engagement in all regions of the state, including, but not limited to, environmental justice communities and other communities that have the most significant exposure to the impacts of climate change.

As noted in the Council's annual report, *[Environmental Quality in Connecticut](#)*¹, Connecticut's climate is changing, which is resulting in an increase in sea levels, hotter temperatures, and more precipitation. These changes in Connecticut's climate have the potential to adversely impact both the natural and built environment and the quality of life in Connecticut.

Thank you for consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta, Executive Director

¹ Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, <https://portal.ct.gov/ceq/publications/publications/annual-report-main>