



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 2, 2020

The Honorable Steve Cassano
The Honorable Cristin McCarthy Vahey
Members of the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development

Re: Draft Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut, 2018-2023

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) hereby re-submits the Draft *Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut, 2018-2023* (Draft C&D Plan) to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development (Continuing Committee), for its “approval, revision or disapproval, in whole or in part.”

This is the fourth consecutive year that OPM has submitted the Draft C&D Plan for the General Assembly’s consideration of adoption. During the 2018 legislative session, [House Joint Resolution No. 172](#) was not acted on by the General Assembly. In 2019, [House Joint Resolution No. 74](#) was raised, but not transmitted to the General Assembly. During the pandemic-shortened session of 2020, the Continuing Committee held a public hearing on March 9th, but no formal action was taken during the requisite statutory period.

[Section 16a-30](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) requires the Continuing Committee to hold a public hearing on the Draft C&D Plan “not later than forty-five days after the convening of the next regularly scheduled session... Not later than forty-five days after completion of such public hearing, the committee shall submit the plan with its recommendation for approval or disapproval to the General Assembly.”

When the Continuing Committee recommends approval of the Draft 2018-2023 C&D Plan during the 2021 legislative session, OPM recommends that the joint resolution should specify that the General Assembly adopt it as the 2021-2026 C&D Plan. This would require corresponding amendments to CGS Sec. 16a-28 and Sec. 16a-29 to re-set the next 5-year revision cycle, respectively, by changing the referenced 2011 dates to 2024 and the referenced 2013-2018 period to 2026-2031, with a new submission date of December 1, 2025.

OPM is well-aware of previous comments submitted by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) during the April 23, 2018 and March 14, 2019 public hearings, concerning how the C&D Plan is implemented by state agencies. For the 2021 session, OPM intends to propose legislation similar to that which was raised in Section 15 of [RB 470](#) during the 2020 session, as well as in Section 6 of [Senate Bill 1009](#) during the 2019 session. If passed, I am confident that the resulting advisory reports prepared by OPM for state agencies will address CCAPA’s concerns, as well as allow OPM to better inform the General Assembly about the implementation of the C&D Plan, in accordance with CGS Section 16a-32(c).

Finally, please note that the Locational Guide Map component of the Draft C&D Plan, which recommends the delineation of priority funding areas in accordance with CGS Section [16a-35c\(b\)](#), is available electronically via OPM's website, at <https://portal.ct.gov/cdplan>.

My staff and I remain committed to working with the Continuing Committee to address any concerns that members might have. If you would like to discuss the Draft C&D Plan or have OPM prepare a presentation, please contact Dan Morley at (860) 418-6343 or Daniel.Morley@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Konstantinos Diamantis', is written over a light blue grid background.

Konstantinos Diamantis
Deputy Secretary

C: Martin Heft, OPM
Dan Morley, OPM
Eric Lindquist, OPM