

Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Environment Connecticut Campaign Director  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
February 19, 2014

**Supporting: SB 70, AAC The Preservation of Lands Under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture**

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony supporting SB 70, An Act Concerning the Preservation of Lands Under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture.

Environment Connecticut is a nonprofit member-based environmental advocacy organization working to protect Connecticut's natural landscape, air, and waters. Connecticut is lucky to have many publicly owned lands including forests, parks, and agricultural lands. These provide enormous benefits to our state, including recreational opportunities, habitat protection, and local food production. Protecting these often fragile lands is vitally important to preserving the quality of life for Connecticut's families. As such, the state's residents rightly expect that public lands will be preserved and protected.

Unfortunately, recent history has shown that our state's public lands are at risk of loss to political whims, special interests, and shortsighted decisions by policy makers. SB 70 is a significant step towards ensuring that Connecticut's public lands are protected and preserved for future generations.

Environment Connecticut urges your **support for SB 70**.