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*Testimony of Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association*

Public Hearing Subject Matter	Support/ Oppose
<b>GOVERNOR'S BILL 947:</b> AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.	Support Sections 13(d)(3), 21(h), 65(d), & 66

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. For 120 years, CFPA has offered testimony before the General Assembly on sustainable forestry, state parks and forests, trail recreation, natural resource protection, and land conservation issues.

I am testifying today in strong support of the following provisions in Governor's Bill SB 947, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

CFPA supports the following bonding proposals:

- Section 13(d)(3): \$10 million for the DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grants program.
- Section 21(h)(1): \$25 million for alterations, renovations and new construction at State Parks and other recreation facilities, including Americans with Disabilities Act improvements; and
- Section 21(h)(5): \$10 million for the DEEP Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program that is utilized for open space, resource protection, and resource management on State-owned conservation lands. The RNHT is the primary mechanism for acquiring and protecting State Forests, Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas that provide for public recreation and enjoyment.
- Section 65(d): \$3.375 billion for the Clean Water Fund necessary for maintaining and improving Connecticut's clean water infrastructure.
- Section 66: \$12 million for a Recreation Trails Fund for the state that would mirror and match the federal Recreational Trails Program funded through the Federal Highway Administration.

Bonding for these important programs are investments in Connecticut's quality of life, and we are thankful that they are included in Governor's Bill 947.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify, and I am glad to respond to any questions you may have.