

Ann Beaudin <aab@animaterra.com>
Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:39 AM
AppTestimony
Budget cuts testimony on display page and also attached
2016 BUDGET CUTS TESTIMONY.odt

Importance: High

February 9, 2016

ATTN: Conservation & Development Subcommittee of Appropriations
From: Ann Beaudin, 1009 Poquonock Ave. Windsor, CT
Re: 2017 Midterm Budget Adjustments

Dear Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the foregoing testimony. Although, I serve on various Commissions and Boards I am submitting this testimony in my individual capacity as a taxpaying resident of CT.

The 2017 Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustments, released on February 3rd, includes a 5.75% cut to the budget of the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. The new proposed "block grant" structure of the budget groups all line items into one large category called "Agency Operations." Previously, these programs had detailed funding for each item. Key organizations and agencies such as: Forests & Parks Association of CT, Open Space and Conservation funds, and perhaps valuable oversight agencies, such as the CEQ may be drastically cut. Without a line item designation, it is difficult; to know which ones and by how much.

Although, CT's shortfall is duly recognized, the modicum amount of apportioned funding over the years relative to and comparative to the total budget should be noted. In view of Climate Change exigencies, as well as threats to our water and air quality, and dwindling open space; the Environment should be foremost on the list of essential funding. It certainly is among the many residents who have contacted me.

It is well documented that our forests and parks, open space, recreational and pristine areas serve to enhances our coffers via tourism and state appeal as a place to live and work. While requiring little comparative maintenance, they preserve the health of our environment for future generations, provide jobs, and advance the well being of CT's residents.

In light of Climate Change and concerns with our air and water quality, in my view, it is unfathomable that we would want to further reduce staffing and funding for DEEP and other Environmental organizations and agencies. Ultimately, we end up paying via the need for mitigation, restoration, and the health of CT's people.

Finally, we respectfully request clarity on:

- How the 5.75% cut will be distributed across programs.
- How will citizens and legislators know which specific programs are to have cuts or changes?

- In what way will DEEP staffing be affected. DEEP staff is already historically low in number while responsibilities and need for urgent oversight and due diligence increases.
-

My sincere appreciation for this opportunity. Please confirm receiving my testimony for submission. I look forward to and appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

Cordially,
Ann Beaudin
1009 Poquonock Ave
Windsor, CT
aab@animaterra.com