

2/10/16 **Conservation and Development Testimony**

Dear Conservation and Development Subcommittee of Appropriations,

Connecticut State Parks and Forests have played an important role in my decision to remain a Connecticut resident. I am in my late 20's. As you may know, nature and land conservation are very important to my generation. Having well-maintained state beaches, hiking trails, and a safe water supply are the highlights of living in Connecticut. I endure the high cost of living in Connecticut because I can enjoy a good quality of life, thanks to land maintenance workers. Many young friends have left Connecticut because the cost of living is too high. Let's not provide young working professionals an additional reason to leave the state by destroying the DEEP budget! You benefit from young workers' taxable income.

I urge CT Budget officials to revise the budget cuts to the DEEP. Sustaining the land we have should be a top priority for state officials. The future of our local land and the quality of our lives is at stake. Let's not take away funding that sustains a healthy and happy state. Let's maintain Connecticut as a great place to live for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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