

As a stakeholder in our state forests, parks, conservation areas, and other undeveloped land I support Senate Joint Resolution No. 5 for a constitutional amendment to safeguard the future of these irreplaceable assets.

These unspoiled preserves of our state's natural beauty are both refuge and inspiration for all Gods creatures, and are an enduring testament to the foresight and good stewardship of our early legislators.

Their tangible economic contribution to the state extends from timber sales to tourism. Harder to quantify but of immense value are things like the health benefits for thousands of us who use these areas for exercise. Our public lands are a quality of life asset which gives Connecticut's businesses a strong recruiting tool, helping them bring America's best talent to Connecticut. These areas provide a scientific baseline for the environmental health of Connecticut and as such are indispensable for assessing the effects of both development and conservation throughout the state.

Thank you for representing my interests in this important issue.

Thomas Hall
East Lyme