

Please fund for CT Natural assets and specific Budget requests.

I am writing to ask you to support providing appropriate funding for programs that protect and expand the natural environment in CT.

For Connecticut to prosper, we need to preserve and build on what makes Connecticut great.

Please vote and lobby your colleagues on key Budget items:

- [HB 5585](#): To establish a state parks sustainability account for the maintenance and operation of State Parks and fund such account through the diversion of certain funds from unclaimed bottle deposit funds and the Citizens' Election Program.
- [SB 384](#): To apply the bottle bill to wine and liquor containers and designate unclaimed deposit refunds from the sale of such containers for the operation, maintenance, and repair of State Parks.
- [SB 386](#): Requesting CT DEEP to recommend a dollar amount for a per-person admission fee to state parks that will leave the state competitive with surrounding states while generating increased revenues for the maintenance and operation of State Parks.

We have a state that many feel is a great place to live, do business and visit. The rich natural beauty; generally clean, healthy surroundings and easy access to outdoor recreation are very strong components of that appeal. The CT environment is a key part of what defines life in CT and protecting it is fundamental to keeping CT attractive.

And that appeal includes a highly enjoyable great outdoors.

UConn's Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) found that outdoor activities on state lands have an economic benefit of more than \$1 billion a year and 9,000 jobs. The study also documented that for every dollar the state spends on the state park system, it receives a return of \$38 in economic activity.

Please vote and lobby your colleagues to protect the natural appeal CT offers.

Please vote for the funding needed for conservation programs.

Sincerely

Dave Rauch
330 Columbus Ave
Meriden, CT 06451
203-631-2130