



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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S.J. 36 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE TO PROTECT CERTAIN PROPERTY HELD OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE FOR CONSERVATION, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES –

Submitted by State Senator Tony Hwang, 28th Senate District

I am State Senator Tony Hwang of the 28th Senate District representing Easton, Fairfield, Weston, Westport and Newtown/Sandy Hook. I am submitting written testimony today in strong support of S.J. No. 36: RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE TO PROTECT CERTAIN PROPERTY HELD OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE FOR CONSERVATION, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. This proposal aims to better protect state-owned forest land, parks, wildlife areas and other open space in Connecticut.

There are many valued state parks throughout CT and I would like to point out Sherwood Island State Park is an incredible jewel within my district. And Sherwood Island is a terrific example of the forward thinking of Connecticut officials who created the state parks system a century ago.

Today, over 100 years later, Connecticut residents and visitors from all over our great state are able to enjoy the benefits for recreation and public land use purposes and also reiterate the social & educational commitment to our environment.

We, as state policymakers, should continue to do all we can to pass measures to ensure that our natural eco-system remains preserved as a living laboratory for learning and interaction for future generations and maintain the delicate balance between societal/economic progress versus environmental preservation.

Our grandchildren - and their grandchildren – should be provided the opportunity to enjoy, learn and experience wonderful treasures like Sherwood Island State Park.

This proposal represents the type of common sense long-term planning that we saw last year when the Long Island Sound Blue Plan legislation was passed into law. The Blue Plan is a great example of how government can be a helpful guide to ensure that smart, constructive decisions are made in the future.

And while we are focused on budgetary matters during this short legislative session, we remain focused on passing policies which bring about sustainability, predictability and transparency throughout state government. This proposal will bring about sustainability, predictability and transparency, and I urge your support of S.J. No. 36.

Tong-Hwang