



Statement of
Jo-Anne R Basile, Executive Director
Connecticut Votes for Animals
in Support of SB 7
Joint Committee on the Environment
February 4, 2019

Chairs Cohen and Demicco and Members of the Environment Committee

Connecticut Votes for Animals strongly supports SB 7, a bill to establish Calf Pasture Beach as a wildlife refuge.

CT Votes for Animal represents 3,000 CT residents across the State, including many who live in Norwalk and the surrounding areas. CVA members have expressed strong interest in current efforts to establish a wildlife refuge so they may peacefully enjoy the land in and around Calf Pasture Beach. The Calf Pasture Beach area is a multipurpose, recreational and scenic area and available for people to enjoy throughout the year. It is a respite from the urban and exurban life style and should be available to residents to enjoy peacefully without fear of an accidental shooting or witness the blood sport of hunting water fowl. Connecticut's wildlife watchers contribute more than \$935 million to the State's economy and number more that 1.2 million and growing wildlife watching enthusiasts. This is in stark contrast to the declining population of hunters who nevertheless are allowed to hunt in all but 3 State parks. It is time to reverse the trend and give back the lands to many CT citizens who desire a peaceful and safe outdoors experience.

CVA thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present our position and urge the Environment Committee to favorably consider SB 7 to establish a wildlife refuge at Calf Pasture Beach.