



Testimony of The Connecticut Audubon Society in support of Senate Bill No. 775, “An Act Concerning the Creation of the Central Connecticut Loop Trail, Public Hearing Feb 13.

The Connecticut Audubon Society strongly supports Senate Bill No. 775. This bill aligns perfectly with our mission to inspire conservation action through connecting people to nature. *“The Connecticut Audubon Society protects Connecticut’s environment by inspiring conservation action. We connect people to birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, habitat improvement and environmental advocacy.”* It is also in keeping with the recommendations outlined in our 2012 Connecticut State of the Birds report, “Where Is The Next Generation of Conservationists Coming From?”

<https://www.ctaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/ConnecticutStateoftheBirds2012.pdf>

Wildlife associated recreation has a big impact on Connecticut’s Economy. The “2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: Connecticut” estimated that non-consumptive wildlife associated recreation accounts for \$934,704,000.00 in expenditures annually in the state. <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-ct.pdf> Offering ample opportunities for outdoor recreation will ensure that this continues to be a thriving industry in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend our support to this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Comins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Patrick M. Comins, executive director