



Connecting people to the land since 1895

16 Meriden Road
Rockfall
Connecticut 06481-2961
Tele: 860-346-TREE
www.ctwoodlands.org

Testimony of Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Public Hearing Subject Matter	Position
H.B. 5103: AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LAW.	Support

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. For nearly 125 years, CFPA has offered testimony before the General Assembly on various State Park and Forest, trail recreation, forestry, and land conservation issues.

I am testifying today to express CFPA's support of Raised Bill 5103, "An Act Requiring an Evaluation of the State's Environmental Justice Law," and to thank the Environment Committee for bringing this bill forward.

CFPA supports the goals in this bill of improving transparency, better opportunities for public participation, timely notice about potential adverse impacts, and greater protections for environmental justice communities. It should not be controversial to say that all communities in Connecticut should have equal opportunities to enjoy clean air, water, and connect to outdoor recreation opportunities. The lack of equity across communities is not a new problem in Connecticut, so it is critical for our state to make progress whenever possible. Supporting Raised Bill 5103 is a good step that I hope you will take.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am glad to respond to any questions you may have.