



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CFE/Save the Sound 2019 Connecticut legislative agenda focuses on Climate, Long Island Sound/Water, and Land Protections

In wake of tumultuous federal climate rollbacks, efforts will focus on rebuilding and expanding good climate policy

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – During the 2019 Connecticut legislative session beginning January 9, Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound will focus on climate, clean water, coastal resiliency, and land protection policy.

CLIMATE

Connecticut is legally obligated to slash greenhouse gas emissions 10% by 2020 and 45% by 2030. To accomplish this as well as reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower air pollution emissions, promote clean energy jobs, and drive economic development, CFE/Save the Sound will be working to:

- Electrify the transportation sector and accelerate adoption of clean cars.
- Ensure consumers receive full and **fair compensation for their solar generation**.
- **Invest in offshore wind and energy storage**, and expand solar access.
- **Restore clean energy and efficiency funds** that were raided in 2017, ensure these funds and programs aren't raided again, and increase investment in our Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Funds.

LONG ISLAND SOUND AND RIVER PROTECTION

Long Island Sound is the ecological and cultural heart of our region, as well as an economic engine that produces at least \$17 billion in economic activity—but it's vulnerable to pollution, habitat loss, and the effects of climate change. CFE/Save the Sound will be working to:

- **Stop raw sewage leaks and stormwater impacts** by investing in clean water infrastructure at the state (**Clean Water Fund**) and municipal levels (**local bonding**) as well as creating a **Green Infrastructure** vision to absorb polluted stormwater, restore our rivers, reduce local flooding, and employ our youth.
- **Build resilient shorelines and communities** by investing in nature-based solutions to manage flooding and limit sea level rise impacts (State funding: **LIS Stewardship and Resiliency Fund**), **improve permitting** for these solutions, and promote and protect **sustainable fishery policies and habitats**.

PUBLIC LANDS AND PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

In our highly populated region, Connecticut's important lands are increasingly at risk of being lost forever. These critical places filter drinking water, help keep our air clean, provide habitat for wildlife, and bring tourism dollars to Connecticut. We will be working to:

- **Protect Plum Island from sale** by the federal government to the highest bidder. Plum Island in Long Island Sound is home to threatened and endangered species, a complex tapestry of unique habitats, and significant military and cultural history.
- **Save Oswegatchie**, 236 acres and a mile of coastal woodland and riverbank in East Lyme, threatened with a giant development scheme that would flush pollutants into our water, and destroy the wildlife habitat.
- **Ensure passage of the State Water Plan.** The legislature failed to pass a State Water Plan last session, but Gov. Malloy activated the plan by executive order. The Water Planning Council has resubmitted the plan, and the legislature must act on it to fully move forward on evaluation and planning needed to ensure protection of water for residents and businesses.

STOPPING ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS

As the federal government rolls back touchstone environmental regulation—Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Paris Climate Accord, Endangered Species Act, and Fisheries protections—in Connecticut, brazen efforts to limit polluter enforcement and weaken state laws that protect drinking water, open space, and healthy air abound. We will remain vigilant to ensure Connecticut's environmental protections aren't swept away by bad legislation if efforts to weaken them resurface from past years.

- **Consent Order Legislation:** Bad proposals to prevent DEEP's commissioner from modifying or revoking a consent order without the full agreement of the other party, as well as allowing a party to seek declaratory and injunctive relief in the Superior Court regarding any dispute over an existing consent order.
- **Open Space Rule:** Bad proposal to limit the amount of land a town requires for dedication as open space to not more than 20% of a subdivision. This encourages sprawl and limits open space protection.

Contact us:

Please feel free to reach out at any time about these and other environmental issues. We'll be happy to connect you with CFE/Save the Sound leadership, program leads, and attorneys who can speak in detail for background or on the record.

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