

PA 11-192

HB6157

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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large membership and let them know about this bill and urge their support in their various towns.

SANDY BRESLIN: Well, thank you, Senator. And we will certainly take that good advice and appreciate the committee's support for this effort again this year.

We know in those communities that now have a real estate conveyance fee in place that there is initially a lot of skepticism and resistance from certainly the real estate community and concerns about how it will impact home -- home purchasing. So I think you're right. The burden of proof is on us to reach out to those stakeholders and constituencies and also to the municipalities and have the dialogue about how -- how we see the benefits of rolling out from this legislation.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing none, thank you, Sandy.

Amy Paterson -- excuse me -- followed by David Sutherland.

Amy?

Okay, David Sutherland, followed by David Bingham.

DAVID SUTHERLAND: Amy had a meeting with Tim Bannon so -- she -- hoped she could get back by now but apparently not.

Thank you. My name is David Sutherland. I'm here today representing The Nature Conservancy, and, for new members, The Nature Conservancy is

98834
HB6157
SB60

an international conservation organization that's dedicated to using various techniques to preserve as broad an array of native plants and animal species as we can in our natural landscapes.

And I'm here today to -- I've submitted testimony on two bills, 834 and 6157, both of which we support. Before I get into those I just want to briefly mention that we do very much support Bill 60, as well, to do a more in depth look at what we need to improve and enhance our permitting programs.

In terms of Bill 834, which would establish a conveyance tax that we've just been hearing about, I think it's really important to note the exemption that's built into this legislation for purchases of property. The first \$150,000 would be exempted from the tax and, as I say in my testimony, most of the studies that I've been able to find about what type of impact transfer taxes have on the real estate market don't seem to look at programs with that type of exemption. I go into a little bit of detail about a study done up in Ontario with Toronto. And they have a stiffer tax rate and less of an exemption and even there they found with their rates that for, particularly, more expensive homes, there was a fairly negligible impact. So I think this is a very critical tool that we can give to municipalities in a year where the State is going to have a really tough time giving much of anything to municipalities or they're -- they're going to be -- you folks are going to have -- probably have to decrease what you're giving to municipalities in direct aid. And so this is a tool that you would be able to give them.

With 6157 concerning forestry programs, last year when the legislature and the governor shifted all of DEP's special funds financing over into the General Fund we said at the time that there were

a couple of narrow areas in which that really didn't work very well or make sense. And one of those is with the forestry division. We've got a division here which has seen its staff basically cut in half over the past decade and a half. And the ironic thing is here is each of the land managers in the forestry division generate more money for the State than it costs to employ them. So these staff cutbacks have made no sense whatsoever. We don't think we're going to succeed in getting increased staff this year but this -- this bill would provide a mechanism for at least allowing DEP to accomplish more of that forestry work and that way accomplish some very important ecological objectives in our forests. We need more timber cutting. But it would also generate more funding for the State. We urge your support.

Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: David, thank you.

Any comments or questions from members of the committee?

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: You're proposing the forestry bill of a dedicated, separate, isolated fund --

DAVID SUTHERLAND: Correct.

SENATOR MEYER: -- the kind of funds that the last governor was sweeping into the General Fund.

DAVID SUTHERLAND: Right. Yeah, yeah.

SENATOR MEYER: Have you had a talk with the executive -- through all those --

DAVID SUTHERLAND: A couple of my colleagues did have

a talk with the Executive Branch and they're still trying to sort out the whole budget. I think they're very interested in this idea. They understand the concept that -- these programs actually generate money, gross additional money for the General Fund. And the question is how to, sort of, front load that so that we can get some more resources directed towards these activities to then generate additional funding. We've tried that for the last couple of years, and we just haven't been able to generate the upfront money. And I hope what we can do, as we discuss this bill during the process, is to figure out a way that we could allow, perhaps, for somebody to make a loan, a donation -- a private individual to make a loan to the division, the forestry division, with the understanding that they would get back the proceeds from the timber revenues that are generated. And that would sort of kick-start this revolving loan account so that we could then, at least, generate some increased activity. Figure out how to way -- a way to increase both the funding that goes into the General Fund and also then, perhaps, kick back -- I don't want to use the word "kickback" -- let's see, return -- return some funding to the forestry division as well so that they can continue to do more of these activities.

SENATOR MEYER: Good. Well, thank you, Dave. And maybe The Nature Conservancy should be making that contribution to start it off.

DAVID SUTHERLAND: We'd be open to considering it I'd say.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing no questions, John Larkin, followed by Joan Nichols, and we move onto Bill 6157.

JOHN LARKIN: Hello Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, Representative Chapin, members of the Environment Committee. My name is John Larkin. I'm delivering testimony on behalf of Connecticut Forest and Park Association in support of bill -- House Bill 6157.

Connecticut Forest and Park Association is the first private, nonprofit, organization established in Connecticut in 1895. We're probably best known for two things, being Connecticut's leading advocate for science-based sustainable forestry and maintaining over 825 miles of Blue-Blazed trails that traverse 88 towns across this great state.

Every year CFPA publishes a conservation agenda with many important conservation programs highlighted in it. This year we have focused our five highest priorities. One of them being establishing a revolving fund that would allow DEP forestry to retain a portion of the sustainable harvest revenues they generate to -- with a balance going -- the balance going to the General Fund.

We expect the funds in the revolving fund -- the funds in the revolving fund would not support the hiring of staff, although that is an issue that has been well documented over the years. Rather the funds from the revolving fund would be reinvested into necessary forest management planning and implementation activities.

This will allow the DEP to generate additional revenues to the state while enhancing the help of our state forests and also creates a forestry-related jobs in Connecticut. HB 6157

would establish the mechanism for the DEP to achieve this goal.

Today, each time a sustainable harvest occurs in a state forest revenues are generated, approximately \$500,000 in 2009. Under the current structure, those revenues go directly to the General Fund. And for the DEP to conduct an additional sustainable harvest, the DEP must wait until funds are appropriated or otherwise allocated to DEP forestry division -- to the DEP forestry division to initiate the contracting on the next harvest. However, if a timber harver -- timber harvest revolving fund were to be established, this would allow the state forester to have multiple projects going on at once. Revenues would be created for the state and jobs in the private sector would be created.

Additional forest management would help early detection of evasive species, like the Asian longhorned beetle, wild life habitat, water quality, recreation, and forest fire prevention efforts would also be a benefit.

It would only take at the -- it would only take about \$100,000 to capitalize this revolving fund and to keep it going. With minimal investment, it could -- that could come through the appropriations fines, supplemental environmental projects, or other means, the DEP forestry could play significant role in generating additional revenue for the state, creating hundreds of new private forestry jobs, increase the health of state forest wildlife and watersheds.

Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you, John.

Any questions or comments from members of the committee?

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, John, for your testimony.

I think you said in here -- what was the percentage of our forest that have a forest management plan?

JOHN LARKIN: Roughly, right now, about 30 percent of our state forests are under a management plan.

REP. HURLBURT: And how many of those are active management plan? Is it just a plan -- that's in place or is it actually being utilized?

JOHN LARKIN: Under that 30 percent, I don't have that number but right now only a 30 percent of the state forest have that plan. It's also a side benefit of a management plan would be accurate boundary markers.

REP. HURLBURT: Uh-huh.

JOHN LARKIN: I think which was highlighted about a month ago. In the Hartford Courant, there was a situation where there was a question of somebody crossed into state forest land. The DEP had to go out there and re-survey to find out if that was the case.

REP. HURLBURT: Interesting, and I guess that would help with one of the bills we heard earlier today creating a database of our open space and how we manage them. And I'm assuming, given 10 percent unemployment, there's a need and a willingness for people to -- to take on these jobs and --

JOHN LARKIN: Absolutely, and I think the speaker following me can talk more from a perspective of

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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12:00 P.M.

the timber industry, but it is obviously a small industry here in Connecticut but, nonetheless, they are folks that are actively looking for additional work all the time.

REP. HURLBURT: Great and we saw something like this very similar in years past, have we not?

JOHN LARKIN: We have, yes.

REP. HURLBURT: Yeah, I know what a shame. Just for just for the committee's history. We've -- the committee passed out this piece out of our 10 mill bill last session, which passed the House, I think, unanimously and probably would have passed the Senate equally unanimously if it weren't for running out of the clock. So, hopefully -- hopefully, this year we'll get it to the finish line on time as opposed to last year where we only got it to the finish line.

All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, John.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing none, John, thank you very much.

Joan Nichols and she'll be followed by Keith Neilson.

JOAN NICHOLS: Good afternoon, Representative Roy, Senator Meyer and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Joan Nichols. I'm here this afternoon to speak as government relation specialist for Connecticut Farm Bureau and also as president of the Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association. Both associations

are here to ask for your support on RB 6157, AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS.

Sound forest management pays for itself. It pays for itself not only in income derived from the sale of forest products but also in providing the State of Connecticut with a healthy vigorous forest, improved wildlife habitat, clean water, open space and recreational opportunities. Forest science has proven that healthy forest are far better defending themselves against insect and disease infestations than unmanaged forests.

The amount of income derived from state timber sales more than covers the administrative costs of maintaining that healthy forest. A timber harvesting environ -- a timber harvest revolving account would provide funds that are derived from the sound management of Connecticut's state forests to be utilized for developing forest management plans and covering other expenditures that the Connecticut DEP Division of Forestry incurs to maintain those healthy forests.

According to a 2010 UConn study, the sales of Connecticut forest products in 2007 accounted for approximately \$131.5 million. Managed forests contribute to the State's economy, job growth and the quality of our environment.

It is time for the legislature to give back to Connecticut's state forest lands what these lands have given to State of Connecticut for over 100 years. We strongly urge your support on this bill.

And I'm happy to answer any questions.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Joan.

Any questions, other comments from members of the committee?



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TESTIMONY

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

January 31, 2010

To Chairmen Ed Meyer, Richard Roy, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 450 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bills before you today. This testimony addresses seven of these bills, in their order on the agenda.

S.B. No. 60 AAC THE ENFORCEMENT AND PERMITTING DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION [DEP]. The DEP has responded positively to recent criticism of the slow pace at which permits were being processed. These days, most applications are moving rapidly through DEP. (Complex projects, involving multiple authorities, are still problematic.) By all measures, however, the state falls short on monitoring and enforcement. Permits and mitigation plans are rarely monitored in the field by unannounced inspections or by independent experts. Enforcement relies on self-reporting, which from time to time may not be entirely accurate. Even when the state has received evidence that conditions in a permit or management plan are not met, the response is likely to be slow and weak. This is true of most agencies having project oversight, not just the DEP. These failings have frequently resulted in significant harm, cost, and danger to the public. Rivers Alliance strongly supports adequate staffing for permitting, monitoring, and enforcement. We believe that this could be revenue neutral if some costs (such as independent monitoring) were to be covered by applicants, and if fines (which should be reasonable) were to be collected promptly and consistently.

HB5202
SB 831
SB 59
HB6157
HB5068

S.B. No. 834 AAC MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH PROPERTIES. This bill enables what is popularly called the "Green Fund." Rivers Alliance and many other environmental groups have supported the Green Fund for a number of years. The bill gives towns the authority to impose (if they wish) a small fee on someone buying real property in

might cross into town land? The bill safeguards for the public the valuable right and privilege to enjoy this state's wonderful open spaces. It encourages exercise and good health. It supports tourism and outdoor recreation, along with affiliated businesses. The bill will also save towns money, somewhat from lower insurance premiums, but most importantly by reducing the risk of costly legal defense in cases where there has been no wrongdoing.

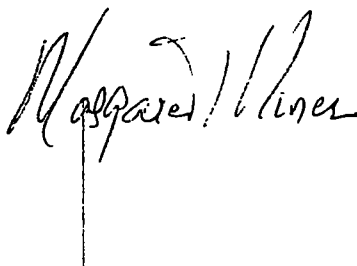
We support the goal of this legislation, and would be happy to work with you if questions arise.

S.B. 59 AAC PROHIBITING THE SALE OR USE OF FISHING SINKERS, JIGS AND TIRE WEIGHTS THAT CONTAIN LEAD. We support the effort to keep lead, which is highly toxic, out of water. Sinkers and jigs lost in water poison fish, water fowl, and other birds, like eagles, that hunt in water. For example, a high percentage of untimely deaths in bald eagles, loons, and trumpeter swans are due at least in part to lead poisoning -- from 25% to over 50%. The underlying problem is apparently the sheer volume of lead in fishing waters. An Audubon Society Waterbird Conservation Study found that some 2,700 metric tons of lead fishing weights are produced annually, mostly to replace lost weights. (Losing weight is good. Losing weights is bad.) Both science and policy are trending toward the conclusion that lead should not be used in fishing sinkers and jigs. Lead sinkers are banned or limited in New Hampshire, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and Wisconsin - - and in Yellowstone National Park. Massachusetts has banned the use of lead sinkers at two reservoirs (Quabbin and Wachusett). There are alternatives already available in sporting shops. This legislation will protect the health of wildlife and humans without economic hardship or limits on recreation.

H.B. No. 6157 AAC STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS. Rivers Alliance urges legislators to pass this bill this year. There is no better protection for water resources than forested land, and good state forest management will pay for itself and even generate profits.

H.B. No. 5068 AAC CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT. This proposal shifts the burden of proof to wetlands commissions in applications for dry hydrants, that is, non-pressurized hydrants that access a body of water. Dry hydrants are typically used to draw water in case of fire. They need maintenance to be reliable. I am not aware that inland wetlands commissions are unreasonably prohibiting installation of dry hydrants. But if the bill is needed, the word "public" should probably be deleted from the reference to alternative access to a "public water supply." The alternative supply could be located on public or private land.

Margaret Miner, Executive Director





Conserving Connecticut since 1895

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

| Proposed Bills to be heard by the Environment Committee on January 31, 2011 | Support/ Oppose |
|--|--------------------|
| <u>S.B. 834</u> : AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH PROPERTIES. | Support |
| <u>H.B. 5202</u> : AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION | Support |
| <u>S.B. 831</u> : AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL LIABILITY FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN OPEN SPACE LANDS. | Support |
| <u>S.B. 829</u> : AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE REGISTRY | Support |
| <u>H.B. 6157</u> : AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS | Support |

Co-Chairmen Roy, Meyer, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Eric Hammerling and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895 and a leading advocate for the original Recreational Land Use Act of 1971. CFPA has offered testimony before the Legislature on issues such as sustainable forestry, state parks and forests, trail recreation, natural resource protection, and land conservation every year since 1897.

Although I will be focusing my testimony on S.B. 831: An Act Concerning Municipal Liability for Recreational Activities, I would like to thank you for raising several other bills which we strongly support: S.B. 834, H.B. 5202, S.B. 829, and H.B. 6157. I am glad to expound upon our support for any of these bills at your request.

CFPA's mission is to "connect people to the land" in order to conserve Connecticut's forests, parks, trails and open spaces, and that is why we care so passionately about preserving access to municipal lands. Municipalities and municipal water companies own over 150,000 acres (estimated) that support public recreational activities across the state. Considered as a group, municipalities are the state's second largest landowners behind the State, and at CFPA we work closely with many towns because over 50 miles of the 825-mile long Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system (built and maintained by CFPA volunteers) traverse municipal properties.

There are many reasons why we urge you to support S.B. 831 and similar bills (notably H.B. 5315) that would explicitly add municipalities and municipal entities as "owners" under the Recreational Land Use Act:



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860-768-1100 • Fax 860-768-1108 • www.cfba.org

January 30, 2011

Testimony in support of:

R.B. 6157 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Submitted By: Joan Nichols, Government Relations Specialist, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farmers and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Richard Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

R.B. 6157 establishes a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund to be known as the "timber harvesting revolving account". Funds deposited into this account from state timber sales may be utilized to update and develop forest management plans and other administrative expenses necessary to maintain the health of Connecticut's state forests. Well managed forests derive more in income and other non-monetary benefits than the cost to maintain those forests. The establishment of this fund would be a positive first step to managing Connecticut's state forest lands program on a sustainable basis.

According to a 2010 UCONN study, sales of Connecticut forest products accounted for approximately \$131.5 million dollars. Managed forests contribute to the state's economy, job growth and the quality of our environment. They pay for themselves not only in income derived from state timber sales but they also provide clean air, open space, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunity. Connecticut Farm Bureau Association urges your support of R.B. 6157. It is time the legislature gave something back to our state forest lands after all they given the state of Connecticut for the past one hundred years.



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**Testimony to the Environment Committee delivered by John Larkin
on behalf of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association in support of H.B. 6157**

Dear Co-chairs Meyer, Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee,

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first private, non-profit conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895, and we are probably best known today for two things: 1) being Connecticut's leading advocate for science-based, sustainable forestry, and 2) maintaining 825 miles of blue-blazed hiking trails that traverse 88 towns in our great state.

Every year, CFPA publishes a Conservation Agenda with many important conservation programs highlighted. This year, we have focused on our 5 highest priorities, and one of them is to establish a revolving fund that would allow DEP Forestry to retain a portion of the sustainable harvest revenues they generate with the balance going into the General Fund. We expect that the funds in the revolving fund would not support the hiring of staff (although that need is well-documented). Rather, the funds from the revolving fund would be reinvested into necessary forest management planning and implementation activities. This would allow the DEP to generate additional revenues for the state (1) while it enhances the health of our state forests (2) and also creates and maintains forestry-related jobs in Connecticut (3). H.B. 6157 would establish the mechanism for the DEP to achieve this goal.

Today, each time a sustainable harvest occurs on State Forests, revenues are generated (~\$500,000 in 2009). Under the current structure, those revenues go directly into the General Fund and for the DEP to conduct another sustainable harvest, the DEP must wait until funds are appropriated or otherwise allocated to allow DEP Foresters to initiate contracting on the next harvest.

However, if a Timber Harvest Revolving Fund (which might be renamed as the Sustainable Forest Management Revolving Fund) were established, there would be multiple benefits:

- 1) *Revenues would be created for the state and jobs in the private sectors would be created.* The forest products industry in Connecticut employs approximately 3,600 people and contributes \$500 million to the economy. Private certified foresters would be contracted by DEP Forestry to both prepare management plans and implement

sustainable harvests. At a time when expanding the state workforce significantly is unlikely, this will help DEP leverage its sparse staff resources as much as possible. Under this plan, we are not suggesting that these contractors would or should replace Forestry staff at the DEP;

- 2) *Forests would be managed both sustainably and better.* A 2008 Yale Study reported that DEP Forestry could increase sustainable harvests on state lands by up to 300% and maintain that level of harvest for 50 years. DEP Foresters would supervise all harvests to ensure they would be implemented sustainably. Amazingly, only 1/3rd of the State Forests currently have forest management plans and the revenues generated would help these essential plans be put in place and updated for all state forests;
- 3) *Additional forest management would help early detection of invasive pests.* Better forest management would increase the ability for DEP Forestry and private foresters to have more eyes in the field for early detection of invasive pests and invasive plants. Early detection could potentially save taxpayers millions of dollars in eradication costs. As an example, Worcester, MA recently had to pay almost \$20 million to remove trees that were infested by the Asian Longhorned Beetle, a pest which had been present but went undetected for over 10 years; and
- 4) *Wildlife Habitat, Water Quality, Recreation, and Fire Prevention efforts will all benefit.* In general, our State Forests do not currently provide the diversity of wildlife habitats that they might under additional forest management. Also, reducing the understory and overgrowth of the state forests will allow openings that could accommodate recreational trails and/or serve as breaks to reduce wildfires. Better forest management would also have water quality and even stormwater/floodwater retention benefits.

It would only take \$100,000 to capitalize this Revolving Fund and keep it going. With this minimal investment that could come through appropriations, fines/supplemental environmental projects, or other means, DEP Forestry could play a significant role in:

- Generating additional revenues for the state;
- Creating hundreds of new private forestry sector jobs (and protecting many others) as the Revolving Fund is phased-in; and
- Increasing the health of state forests, wildlife, and watersheds.

On behalf of CFP, I thank you for your support of this important bill.



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**Testimony of David Sutherland – Director of Government Relations
Before the Environment Committee – January 31st, 2011**

In Support of Bill 6157 – AAC STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy's 25,000 members in Connecticut, I would like to express our strong support for Bill 6157 – AAC STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS. This bill would enable the DEP Forestry Division to produce more revenue for the General Fund than it currently generates, and to accomplish important ecological objectives in our State Forests.

The State Lands Management staff in the DEP's Forestry Division has suffered a 50% decrease in staffing levels over the past decade and a half. Since each of the State Lands Managers raises more in General Fund revenues, from carefully-supervised sales of State Forest timber, than it costs to employ them, these staff reductions make no sense fiscally, and have lost the state considerable revenues.

Factors such as weather and timber prices also affect timber revenues, but as an example of how staffing impacts them; when the DEP added three foresters in 1997 at an annual total cost of \$206,000, revenues increased by \$313,000 annually. Conversely, the Division had two fewer State Lands Managers in 2001-02 than in 1999-00, and as a result raised \$350,000 less from timber sales.

The staff reductions over the past 15 years have also greatly hindered the agency's abilities to accomplish critical ecological objectives through the management of our State Forests.

Our advocacy of this program should not be construed as condoning the wholesale cutting of trees simply to raise more revenues. Revenue should never be the primary motive for any management performed on our public lands.

Our scientists, however, along with many others, have determined that maintaining a statewide or regional mix of forest reserve areas amidst other forests which are logged in a well-planned and sustainable manner will provide the healthiest assemblage of various species and age classes in our woodlands. Such an assemblage will provide the broadest diversity of habitats for wildlife and the best resilience against pests, diseases and storm events. Currently, the trees in our state forest lands do not have a healthy diversity of age classes. Careful timber harvests, conducted according to appropriate management plans, will help establish a healthier forest.

Due to staff losses, the Forestry Division does not have adequate staff to conduct or supervise as many harvests as should be carried out annually. This bill, while not increasing
(over)

agency staff, would provide a means of contracting with private foresters to conduct DEP-supervised harvests, and if not actually increasing revenues to the General Fund, holding that fund harmless.

In order to better implement this concept, we recommend that paragraph (c) (2) be changed to read as follows:

(2) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund to be known as the "timber harvesting revolving account". Proceeds from the harvest of timber FROM STATE FORESTS AND STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS shall be deposited in such account. The commissioner SHALL [may] use moneys in such account for the purpose of developing forest management plans to guide the harvest of timber from woodlands and for all reasonable direct expenses relating to the administration and operation of such plans. The commissioner may accept, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, any gifts, donations or bequests for the purposes of depositing such funds into the timber harvesting revolving account. ANY FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF TIMBER HARVEST IN [T]the account shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars. Any remaining proceeds FROM SUCH HARVEST shall be deposited in the General Fund.



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The Voice of the Connecticut Forest Products Industry

January 30, 2011

Testimony in support of:

R.B. 6157 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Submitted by: Joan Nichols – President CT Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

Sound forest management pays for itself. It pays for itself not only in income derived from the sale of forest products, but also in providing the state of Connecticut with a healthy, vigorous forest, improved wildlife habitat and clean water and open space. Forest science has proven that healthy forests are far better at defending themselves against insect and disease infestations, than unmanaged forests. The amount of income derived from state timber sales more than covers the administrative costs of maintaining that healthy forest. A "timber harvesting revolving account" would provide funds that are derived from the sound management of Connecticut's state forests to be utilized for developing forest management plans and other expenditures that the Connecticut DEP Division of Forestry occurs to maintain these healthy forests on a sustainable basis. This is win for the state forest lands program, the forest products industry who depends on state timber sales, and the citizens of Connecticut who deserve a healthy, well managed forest for future generations.

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association urges your support of R.B. 6157 for the state forest lands of Connecticut.

H – 1105

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
PART 14
4474 – 4836**

And good luck, Representative Davis.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 333.

THE CLERK:

On page number 17, Calendar 333, Substitute for House Bill Number 6157, AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS, favorable report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hurlburt from District 53, you have the floor.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Good to see you up there again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today passed both the Environment Committee and the Finance,

Revenue and Bonding Committee unanimously earlier this session.

Members of the Chamber who were here last year may remember it tacked on to another bill that we passed on consent on the last day of session. Unfortunately, the bill did not make it through the Senate, and so we have it again before us here.

What the bill does is creates a nonlapsing account within the General Fund to be known as a Timber Harvesting Revolving Account. This account shall not be more than \$100,000 and will allow for the planning and implementation of forest management in the state.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I ask that my colleagues, please, join me in supporting this bill again and getting it up to the Senate where we can try to have it -- have it pass both chambers this session.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTABELLO:

Thank you, Representative Hurlburt.

Representative Chapin of the 67th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A couple of questions to the proponent, through you, please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I recall in years past, there were similar bills. The one I specifically recall is one that would have -- it would have had the first 600,000 in timber harvesting proceeds go into the General Fund, and anything beyond that go into an account such as this. Is that correct? And is that existing law?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, that is correct. And we've tried for a number of years to reverse that. I think the proposal before us is the best efforts that we could obtain given the -- the circumstances.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Chapin

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And again, through you, so under the bill before us today, if it becomes law, the first 100,000 will go into this new fund and any additional amount will then go into the General Fund; is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT (53rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, that is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Chapin

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentleman for his answers.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity earlier in the session or maybe even late in the fall to attend an event where the Department of the Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture entered into an agreement, and they announced this agreement

at this event, making actually Connecticut wood part of the Connecticut Grown Program. That is something that, I think, benefits the state of Connecticut. I think that this bill before us dovetails nicely with that sort of an arrangement, and I think there are many of us, certainly in the state, that recognize the immense value that our forest have, not only for wildlife but certainly for us, as residents, as well.

I think this bill will help in our efforts to improve our timber stands, as well as our forests, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Chapin.

Further on this bill? Further on this bill?

If not, staff and guests please retire to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all members have voted, the machine will be locked.

Will the Clerk please take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6157.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Total Number voting | 144 |
| Necessary for passage | 73 |
| Those voting Yea | 144 |
| Those voting Nay | 0 |
| Those absent and not voting | 7 |

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 514.

THE CLERK:

On page 29, Calendar 514, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 942, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS. Favorable report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin of the 28th, you have the floor, sir.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
PART 2
288 – 627**

2011

Blancato, Allison

From: Marilyn Johnston [marilynjohnston2003@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2011 6:25 PM

To: Blancato, Allison

Subject: S,B 831, H.B. 6157, H.B. 6263

Dear Ms. Blancato,

I am writing you today to express support for the above three bills currently under consideration in the CT legislature. I am a 25-year resident and property owner in the town of Bloomfield and am most proud of the agricultural heritage/potential and natural beauty of the town. Conservation is an important issue to me and I have supported open space/agricultural planning in the town by attending recent public forums on these topics. I believe the passage of the above bills would support conservation efforts I support. I think liability protections for municipal owners of open space is a good idea. I believe a portion of timber revenues going to forest management is wise and I think 10 mill landowners should receive the benefits provided by HB 6263.

Thank you for your attention on these bills and for considering my endorsement of them which I hereby give.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Johnston
49 Duncaster Rd
Bloomfield, CT 06002

8:00? 8:25? 8:40? Find a flick in no time
with the Yahoo! Search movie showtime shortcut.

2/14/2011

S - 633

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 22
6915-7208**

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

562
June 8, 2011

Moving to Calendar page 11, Calendar 513, House Bill 6557; Madam President, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

On Calendar page 12, Calendar 535, House Bill 6226; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to Calendar page 13, Calendar 560, House Bill 5368; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY: .

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing on Calendar page 13, Calendar 567, House Bill 6157; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

563
June 8, 2011

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving now to Calendar page 14, Calendar 574,
House Bill 6410; Madam President, move to place the
item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing Calendar page 14, Calendar 578, House
Bill 6156; Madam President, move to place the item on
the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to Calendar page 15, Calendar 591, House
Bill 6263; Madam President, move to place the item on
the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 478, House Bill 6488; Calendar 480, House Bill 5256.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 513, substitute for House Bill 6557.

Calendar page 12, Calendar Number 535, substitute for House Bill 6226; Calendar 555, House Bill 6259.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 560, substitute for House Bill 5368; Calendar 567, substitute for House Bill 6157.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 574, substitute for House Bill 6410; Calendar 578, House Bill 6156.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 591, House Bill 6263; Calendar 594, substitute for House Bill 5508; Calendar 595, substitute for House Bill 62 -- 5263.

Calendar page 16, Calendar Number 606, substitute for House Bill 6581; Calendar 609, substitute for House Bill 6501.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 610, substitute for House Bill 6224; Calendar 613, substitute for House Bill 6453.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 614, substitute for House Bill 5068; Calendar 628, substitute for House Bill 5008; Calendars 633, House Bill 6489.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 635, substitute for House Bill 6351; Calendar 640, House Bills, 6559.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 642; House Bill 6595.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 645, substitute for House Bill 6267; Calendar 648, substitute for House Bill 5326; Calendar 650, substitute for House Bill 6344.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 651, substitute for House Bill 6540.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 655, substitute for House Bill 6497; Calendar 657, substitute for House Bill 6262; Calendar 658, House Bill 6364; Calendar 659, House Bill 5489.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 660, substitute for House Bill 6449.

Calendar page 36 -- correction -- Calendar page 33, Calendar Number 390, substitute for Senate Bill 1181.

Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 481, House Bill 5472.

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 584, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 34; Calendar 585, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 54; Calendar 586, House Joint Resolution Number 65, Calendar 587, House Joint Resolution Number 66.

Calendar page 38, Calendar 588, House Joint Resolution Number 80; Calendar 589, House Joint Resolution Number 63; Calendar 590, House Joint Resolution Number 35; Calendar 620, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 45.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 621, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 47; Calendar 622, House Joint Resolution Number 68; Calendar 623, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 69; Calendar 624, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 73.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 625, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 81; Calendar 626, House Joint Resolution Number 84.

Madam President, I believe that completes the items placed on Consent Calendar Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

579
June 8, 2011

Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes?

If all members have voted; all members have voted? The machine shall be locked.

And, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar
Number 1.

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Total number voting | 36 |
| Those voting Yea | 36 |
| Those voting Nay | 0 |

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Senator.

The Senate will come to order.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5, dated Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Copies have been made available.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.