



Creating Great Communities For All

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

February 14, 2022

**Testimony regarding
Proposed CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: THE PLAN FOR
CONNECTICUT 2018-2023**

CCAPA supports the adoption of the 2018-2023 Conservation & Development Policies Plan by the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development and ultimately by the Connecticut General Assembly as a whole. Given that we are now into year four of this five-year Plan, we find the action by the legislature to be well past due, and encourage the Plan's swift adoption with an extension of the effective plan date.

We recognize that the broad framing of the Plan's six Growth Management Principles have not changed from the past two State Plans, and are still generally applicable. Given that this plan was drafted several years ago, it reflects the state of planning at the State at that moment. In the intervening years, the State and its constituent communities have increased their focus on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience, Social Equity and Affordable Housing, the "triple bottom line" of sustainability, the numerous challenges of a pandemic, and a changing demographic landscape of the State. These elements are referenced but can require additional focus in any update to the future Plan. We anticipate that this will be remedied in policies of the next five-year Plan.

Because of the timeframes and delays in adoption of this current Plan, CCAPA does not wish to quibble overly about the content or approach, which should be sufficient to direct the activities of OPM and other State agencies for the remainder of its term in regards to funding grant applications consistently with these state principles and policies. We strongly urge that OPM, in conjunction with the work of the Commission on Development & Connecticut's Future, redouble its efforts to produce a fully re-imagined approach to the State Conservation & Development Policies Plan that thoughtfully incorporates the elements mentioned above and includes an inclusive stakeholder engagement process. For our part, CCAPA stands ready to assist OPM and the Commission in providing input to ensure a visionary and representative Plan for the State moving forward.

WHO WE ARE

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) has over 420 members who are governmental and consulting planners, land use attorneys, citizen planners, and other professionals engaged in planning and managing land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation for local, regional, and State governments, private businesses and other entities. CCAPA has long been committed to assisting the legislature and State agencies with developing and furthering

responsible growth management principles. The APA is an independent, not-for-profit, national educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities.

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