



Public Hearing – January 10, 2024
Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Katie S. Dykes

Draft 2025-2030 State Conservation & Development Policies Plan + Locational Guide Map

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the “Draft 2025-2030 State Conservation and Development Policies Plan” (Draft C&D Plan) and accompanying “Locational Guide Map” that has been submitted to this Committee.

Over the past two years, the Office of Policy and Management has done tremendous work in putting together this draft plan and map with robust public and stakeholder engagement (including input from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and other state, regional, and municipal entities) and based on recommendations from the Commission on Connecticut’s Development and Future (CCDF). The significant input to date that OPM has sought and incorporated has been critical because OPM is proposing a new approach with this plan that should help position the state for more holistic state, regional, and municipal planning efforts going forward.

DEEP **strongly supports** the Guiding Principles and Visions laid out in the Draft Plan as well as the incorporation of climate change and equity as overarching themes. DEEP also appreciates OPM’s ongoing commitment to work through Plan implementation mechanisms with state agencies once this Draft Plan hopefully receives your support. Strong coordination with OPM’s Office of Responsible Growth on implementation of the Draft Plan of C&D is particularly critical because state agency plans, programs, grants, and decisions must be in alignment with it, and as noted in the Draft Plan of C&D, state agencies are often situated at the challenging crossroads of both meeting federal mandates while pursuing state objectives as collaboratively and transparently as possible. If conflicts between federal mandates and state objectives occur in the future, this Draft Plan of C&D will help state agencies to clearly identify resource and other priorities to find common ground, as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on OPM’s proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Andrews at megan.m.andrews@ct.gov.