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

<b>Public Hearing Subject Matter</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Raised H.B. 6479: AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUNDS AND PROJECTS.</b>	Support

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first nonprofit conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. For over 128 years, CFPA has offered testimony before the General Assembly on various State Park and Forest, trail recreation, sustainable forestry, and land conservation issues.

Thank you for raising HB 6479 which would authorize the State Treasurer to invest funds on behalf of municipalities that establish local Climate Reserve Funds. This could reduce redundancies from town-to-town and help offset the likely future expenses associated with municipal property losses, capital projects, and studies related to mitigating hazards and vulnerabilities of climate change.

This is particularly important to do in order to leverage resources for climate resilience and other local environmental priorities at the same time that municipal, state, and in particular, federal resilience dollars are poised to increase dramatically. We also appreciate the strong encouragement in HB 6479 for DEEP to maximize existing and future opportunities to utilize available federal resources for these purposes as well.

I'd be glad to respond to any questions you may have.