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

Public Hearing Subject Matter	Position
Raised SB 1147: AAC THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.	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.

I want to thank the Committee for raising SB 1147, which would enhance the ability of DEEP and the CT Siting Council to deny permits or add conditions to certain facilities that have environmental and public health impacts.

It is important to acknowledge that certain communities have borne a disproportionate burden of environmental and health impacts resulting from the siting of various energy, waste, and industrial facilities over time. This legislation will give DEEP and the CT Siting Council necessary tools to ensure Connecticut takes a more equitable approach to siting new facilities or upgrading existing facilities going forward, and that we ensure meaningful public participation in the facility siting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on this important bill.