



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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NEWS RELEASE

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PUBLIC IS INVITED TO COMMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AT DECEMBER 5 FORUM

HARTFORD -- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is inviting everyone with an interest in environmental affairs to comment on potential environmental legislation at a forum on **Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 9:30 AM** in Hearing Room 1B of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Council Chair Susan Merrow said, "The Council expects to obtain very useful input from interested and knowledgeable people before the recommendations are formally submitted to Governor Dannel P. Malloy and the General Assembly."

The forum will be in the style of a public hearing. The Council has published its draft list of legislative recommendations on its website, www.ct.gov/ceq. Any individual or organization will be welcome to comment on those ideas and to offer additional suggestions.

Merrow said, "The forum will be relatively informal. People will speak in the

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order in which they sign up at the door. Each person will be given a few minutes to speak, and is welcome to hand in written comments before or during the forum. Anyone who has any questions about the forum should call the Council's staff at 860-424-4000."

The CEQ publishes *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*, the state's annual report on the status of our air, water, land and life. The Council also is required by law (CGS Section 22a-12) to recommend legislation "for remedying the deficiencies of existing programs and activities." From its review of statewide environmental indicators and investigation of citizen complaints, the Council has identified the most critical deficiencies and is preparing recommendations for legislation.

Merrow elaborated, "In addition to some of the recurring essentials, such as maintaining the Clean Water Fund and basic land conservation programs, there are some new recommendations this year that pertain to alternative sewage treatment systems, statewide water planning, better streamflow monitoring, protecting conservation lands in perpetuity, and protecting residents from imported hazardous wastes generated by fracking. However, some of those recommendations are not fully developed and the Council will welcome input on the details."

Directions and more information can be found at the Council's web site at www.ct.gov/ceq.

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