



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an  
**Official Statement**

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 155 – known as The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act – stating in the legislative finding that “*the inland wetlands and watercourses of the state of Connecticut are an indispensable and irreplaceable but fragile natural resource with which the citizens of the state have been endowed;*” and

WHEREAS, this state law affirms that wetlands and watercourses “*are an interrelated web of nature essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground water; to hydrological stability and control of flooding and erosion; to the recharging and purification of groundwater; and to the existence of many forms of animal, aquatic and plant life;*” and

WHEREAS, in enacting this law, the Connecticut General Assembly acknowledged “*the preservation and protection of the wetlands and watercourses from random, unnecessary, undesirable and unregulated uses, disturbance or destruction is in the public interest and is essential to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the state;*” and

WHEREAS, the diversity of Connecticut’s inland wetlands and watercourses deliver numerous ecosystem services necessary for public physical and mental health and welfare – including, but not limited to, clean and abundant drinking water, recreation and tourism opportunities, historic and educational worth, unique habitats and biodiversity, aesthetic value and sense of place, carbon sequestration and storage, and climate change resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act – by establishing a soils-based definition of wetlands – safeguards all alluvial and floodplain soils from unregulated activities, thusly ensuring the safety of Connecticut’s towns and citizens; and

WHEREAS, this landmark legislation recognizes the important role of municipalities in “*balancing the need for the economic growth of the state and use of its land with the need to protect its environment and ecology*” and declares it is “*the public policy of the state to require municipal regulation of activities affecting the wetlands and watercourses within the territorial limits of the various municipalities;*” and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in the establishment of 171 inland wetlands and watercourses agencies, through which thousands of citizens and municipal staff have and currently serve “*to forever guarantee to the people of the state, the safety of such natural resources for their benefit and enjoyment and for the benefit and enjoyment of generations yet unborn;*” and

WHEREAS, Connecticut’s municipal inland wetlands and watercourses agencies and their staff – in carrying out the purposes and policies of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act – play a valuable role in accomplishing state goals, such as those of the Connecticut State Water Plan and the Governor’s Council on Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, the year 2022 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the year of 2022 to be

**THE YEAR OF INLAND WETLANDS  
AND WATERCOURSES**

in the State of Connecticut.



GOVERNOR