

CHEBEAGUE AND CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST

Lobbying Policy and Policy Regarding Public Issues

1. Process for Considering Involvement in Public Issues

While direct land protection is the mainstay of a land trust's work, Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust (CCLT) is occasionally encouraged to take a position on various public issues, often concerning environmental policies, regulations, enforcement matters, or other such concerns. Because CCLT believes that intervention in such issues may have a significant potential to diminish the opportunity to work with landowners of any political perspective on a fully cooperative basis to conserve their lands, CCLT will generally not take a position on a public issue unless land it owns or conservation easements it holds will be directly and substantially affected by the particular public issue.

All proposals for CCLT to become involved in such public issues must be approved by the Board of Directors. The key criteria for this decision process are:

- How does the issue relate to CCLT's Mission, and will involvement advance its implementation?
- How will CCLT's involvement impact the credibility of the Land Trust?
- Is land owned by CCLT, or a conservation easements it holds, directly affected by the issue, and will it impact or substantially interfere with the goals of the CCLT's stewardship of that land?
- Will involvement by CCLT result in the allocation of organizational resources--financial, staff and volunteer time--to an extent that other program initiatives will be impeded?
- Are there organizations or individuals involved in the issue that share CCLT's interests and are already covering them adequately? Conversely, is CCLT better situated to address issues not adequately represented by others?
- Are there other societal needs we should consider?

CCLT may decide to support public issues intended to directly improve the general potential for land conservation. Such matters include bond issues to provide funding for land conservation (e.g., bond issues for the Land for Maine's Future Program), proposals to enhance incentives for land owners to conserve their property voluntarily (e.g., legislation concerning tax benefits of land conservation), and other such matters. The Board will consider such matters as they arise to determine if the Land Trust should become involved in them.


2. Lobbying Restrictions

The Internal Revenue Code severely limits the ability of 501(c)(3) organizations, like CCLT, to engage in lobbying of any kind.

Accordingly, if the Board approves any substantial involvement in public issues pursuant to the

policy set forth above, CCLT will make a Section 501(h) election by filing Form 5768 with the IRS. The purpose of such a registration is to allow CCLT to expend up to 20% of its first \$500,000 of exempt expenditures on direct lobbying activities, and up to 25% of that limit on grassroots lobbying, without violating the law. When and if such lobbying activities occur, the expenditures will be classified under a specific account in CCLT's Chart of Accounts, and all such expenditures shall be recorded in that account. Those expenditures will be reflected in the IRS Form 990 filed for the affected tax year.

Certified by:


Kerry McCormack, Secretary


Date