



# ASLA CONNECTICUT

February 7, 2020

Honorary Membership Nominations  
c/o Honors and Awards  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

## RE: Honorary Membership

Dear Executive Committee,

It is my pleasure to nominate **United States Senator Chris Murphy** for induction as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. As the junior Senator from Connecticut, he has been tireless in his efforts in advancing legislation to protect Connecticut's natural resources and improve public access to recreational landscapes.

Last spring, the **John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act** passed with the support of Senator Murphy who was a vocal advocate for permanently reauthorizing the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**. He also included language to designate Connecticut's lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a national Wild and Scenic Rivers. "This is a big win for Connecticut and a testament to good old fashioned Yankee persistence," noted the Senator in his remarks to the press. Murphy first introduced the proposal in 2007 as a Representative in Connecticut's 5th district and never gave up on seeing it through to completion.

For the ten towns along these newly-designated Wild and Scenic River areas, there is now access to an additional \$100,000 per year in federal funding for invasive species removal, sedimentation and erosion control measures, construction of trail systems, implementation of recreational landscapes, and other services provided by landscape architects. In Connecticut, over 500 conservation and community recreation projects have been implemented thanks to LWCF funding, and there will now be countless more thanks to the efforts of Senator Murphy.

This past June, Senator Murphy introduced **S. 1730: Living Shorelines Act of 2019** with his colleague Kamala Harris, and he has not let the lack of action by the Majority Leader discourage him. "The Living Shorelines Act helps protect coastal communities along Long Island Sound, by sending money to towns that are working on environmentally friendly projects to fortify against future storms and rising sea levels. Senator Harris and I will work hard with our colleagues in the Senate to get this bill across the finish line," said Murphy in his December press release upon passage of the companion bill in the House of Representatives. ASLA has been a strong proponent for passage of these bills, and Senator Murphy has been a critical ally in advancing the legislation.

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As a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, he successfully extended funding for the **Highlands Conservation Act** through 2021. Thanks to initial efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, over 1,630 acres of biologically diverse ecosystems and aquifers have been protected in the 26 towns that comprise the region in Connecticut. State and federal grants through this program are allowing municipalities and land trusts to hire landscape architects to help preserve local forests, waterways, and open spaces, while promoting the tourism and recreational activities that are so important to economic growth

This past year, Connecticut ASLA honored Senator Murphy with our **Connecticut Olmsted Award** for his steadfast dedication to land stewardship and unwavering dedication to providing and protecting access to public spaces. Furthermore, the Senator's annual *Walk Across Connecticut* has a certain Olmstedian quality that harkens back to the boyish rambles of a young Frederick Law Olmsted across the Hartford backcountry.

Since 2016, Murphy has trekked hundreds of miles across the state on foot, in the heat of summer, meeting with constituents both in town halls as well as impromptu locations on the road. "You see Connecticut in a different way when you are walking it," Murphy said in a Hartford Courant article. "I think there's a risk in this job that you only see the feedback that comes back to you instead of going out and being proactive."

In support of this nomination, please find enclosed additional letters of endorsement from the following individuals:

1. Tom Tavella, FAIA, Schmidt Design Group
2. Donald Watson, FAIA Emeritus, ACSA Distinguished Professor
3. Shavaun Towers, FASLA, The Project Studio
4. David Brant and Mary Ellen Lemay, Aspetuck Land Trust
5. Robert Golde, FASLA, Towers | Golde

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application. A photograph of Senator Murphy as well as his contact information are enclosed this submission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the qualifications and accomplishments described above.

Very Truly Yours,

Oliver Gaffney, ASLA  
*President*  
*Connecticut Chapter of ASLA*

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## **Contact Details for Senator Murphy**



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January 15, 2020

Honorary Membership Nomination  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**Re: ASLA Honorary Membership for United States Senator Chris Murphy**

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees

I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of United States Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I believe Senator Murphy embodies the principals that we, as landscape architects live by, as well as the mission of the Society.

As a longstanding leader in ASLA, I have the privilege of seeing him in action since his time serving in the United States House of Representatives 2007-2013 and currently as our United States Senator. Senator Murphy works tirelessly on issues that are near and dear to our hearts as landscape architects. He is constantly pushing for strong policies that combat climate change, curb pollution, and invest in renewable energy.

He co-authored the Super Pollutant Act, a bill that focused on reducing the outfall of a class of greenhouse pollutants called Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, which do more damage, in shorter amount of time, than carbon dioxide. He has fought to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He also spearheaded funding for the Highlands Conservation Act, a program that helps fund land conservation projects in the densely populated Highland regions that includes parts of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. These are just a few of his accomplishments over the past six years as our Senator.

Therefore, I strongly encourage the Board of Trustees to elect United States Senator Chris Murphy as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In recognition of his vision, his hard work and leadership. Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Thomas R Tavella, PLA, FASLA  
Studio Director- East Coast  
Schmidt Design Group  
Past President  
American Society of Landscape Architects

Donald Watson FAIA (Emeritus)  
54 Larkspur Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611

American Society of Landscape Architects  
Honorary Membership Nominations  
c/o Honors and Awards  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: **Nomination of the Hon. Chris Murphy** Honorary ASLA Membership

Senator Chris Murphy is committed to the critical role of the United States as world leader in climate preparedness and resilience.

He has served the public in an ascending series of elective offices from the Connecticut State Legislature to his present role as junior U.S. Senator from Connecticut. Throughout his public service, he has been a leading champion of open space conservation, outdoor recreation and education, and environmental quality, earning a lifetime score of 96% on the League of Conservations' National Environmental Scorecard.

As State Representative in Connecticut the first bill he introduced empowered local municipalities in protecting wetlands (2011).

In July 2019, Senators Murphy and Susan Collins of Maine cosponsored the bipartisan legislation in the Senate, Super Pollutants Act of 2019, to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs)—pollutants that warm the planet significantly faster than carbon dioxide.

He has worked to preserve open space, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Highland Conservation Act, among other initiatives to preserve undeveloped land, wild and cultural spaces.

Chris Murphy's voice on behalf of the environment and his record of public service are of international significance and fully supportive of the earth stewardship values promoted by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Watson, FAIA Emeritus  
ACSA Distinguished Professor



07 February 2020:

Honorary Membership Nominations  
c/o Honors and Awards  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**RE: Honorary Membership – Chris Murphy**

Dear Executive Committee,

I am pleased to support the nomination of United States Senator Chris Murphy as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. From his earliest efforts protecting wetlands in his hometown to his on-going support for the preservation of the regionally critical habitats of Long Island Sound and Plum Island (*Plum Island Conservation Act (2019)*) to the his most recent co-sponsorship of the nationally significant, and just passed, *Save our Seas 2.0 Act* with its provisions to remove and prevent plastic waste in our oceans and estuaries, he has shown a lifetime of tireless and ever amplifying support for environmental issues at all scales, as is recognized by the League of Conservation Voters' score of 100% in 2018 for his outstanding voting record (96% lifetime).

This record also includes sustained support for a broad array of land and water conservation measures (*John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act*), water quality and shoreline restoration funding (*Living Shorelines Act of 2019*), smart climate change and renewable energy policies (*Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2019 and Super Pollutants Act*), and successfully legislation for rural heritage protection, environmental education, and access to outdoor recreational activities (*Outdoors for All Act (2019)*, *National Scenic Trails Parity Act*, and *Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019*). Through these actions he has embodied the principles of landscape architecture and promoted healthy communities both locally and nationally.

Chris Murphy is a powerful and visible ally in Washington for both the State of Connecticut and the profession of landscape architecture. He represents our values and fights for our goals. His recognition by the ASLA will enhance his reputation and effectiveness as it raises our national profile.

Respectfully,

Shavaun Towers, FASLA

Shavaun Towers PLA, FASLA

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February 3, 2020

Honorary Membership Nomination  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: ASLA Honorary Membership for US Senator Chris Murphy

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

The Aspetuck Land Trust fully supports the nomination of United States Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. As one of the largest Land Trusts in the State, we are so appreciative of Senator Murphy's commitment to Land Conservation.

Protecting and Stewarding land to reverse climate change, improving biodiversity in a time of insect and bird population declines, keeping our waterways clean, and engaging people in celebrating the great outdoors is what we do every day. Without strong support from environmental leaders like Senator Murphy the mission of our Land Trust would be much more difficult to achieve.

The Connecticut Society of Landscape Architects in partnership with land stewards like Aspetuck Land Trust and others, will help to advance the transformation of our yards into places where nature is welcome, not restricted. The only way to save half the earth as E.O Wilson envisions, is to make our private properties more welcoming to "the little things that run the world" by restricting pesticides and introducing native plants.

Senator Murphy understand the crucial importance of innovative land practices, land protection, and stewardship. It is this unique respect for nature that makes him a perfect honorary member of the ASLA.

He has the vision for what this earth can and should look like, and understands the importance of funding and wise policy to help us get there. We fully support the nomination of Senator Chris Murphy to this important society.

Sincerely,

David Brant

Executive Director  
Aspetuck Land Trust

Mary Ellen Lemay

Director, Landowner Engagement  
Aspetuck Land Trust



06 February 2020

Robert J. Golde, PLA, FASLA

Design Counsel:  
Shavaun Towers, PLA, FASLA

Senior Associates:  
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Associate:  
Natasha Andjelic, PLA, ASLA  
Sean M. Ragan, PLA, ASLA

Honorary Membership Nominations  
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RE: Honorary Membership  
US Senator Christopher Murphy

Dear Executive Committee,

It is my honor to write in support of the nomination of Senator Chris Murphy for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Since his election as Connecticut's junior senator in 2013, Mr. Murphy has been a strident protector of our state's natural resources, a promoter of legislation protecting access to open space and has recently emerged as a national leader in coastal resiliency and climate change legislation. As someone who has followed his tenure in the US Senate it is clear to me that his principles and actions are in complete harmony with the interests of the ASLA and as such is deserving of this honor.

Senator Murphy has co-sponsored numerous environmentally oriented legislative acts including among others:

- The **Outdoors for All Act of 2019 aimed at** acquiring land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service,
- The **Super Pollutants Act of 2019** to reduce short-lived climate pollutants,
- The **Sea Our Seas 2.0 Act of 2019** to reduce the proliferation of debris and plastic waste in marine environments,
- The **Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2019** to establish a working group within the EPA dedicated to reducing usage of fossil fuels,
- The **Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019** to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species,
- The **National Scenic Trails Parity Act** to have New England national scenic trails be administered as units of the National Park System and
- The **Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic River Act (2019)** to designate certain river segments within the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This past June, Senator Murphy was one of two senators who introduced **The Living Shorelines Act of 2019, (S. 1730)**, which will protect coastal communities by funding work on environmentally friendly projects to fortify against future storms and rising sea levels.

For the above reasons, Senator Murphy has been recognized by Connecticut's landscape architecture community as recipient of this past year's CT ASLA Olmsted Award which is given annually to a person or organization in Connecticut that has employed the principle of stewardship of the land as the guiding force in their actions. Clearly Senator Murphy's actions in the senate and at home in Connecticut have proven that he fits this bill. As such it is only fitting that he receives honorary membership in a society so dedicated to "stewardship of the land".

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Golde', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom of the signature.

Robert Golde, PLA, FASLA  
Principal, Past CT ASLA Trustee

Cc: file