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SUPERFUND from cover

program eventually advanced to public hearings held by the Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee in February 2026 and was approved by the committee in March, according to CBIA.

Vermont and New York are currently facing legal challenges with their superfunds leading Connecticut lawmakers saying they "wanted more time to see how the lawsuits in other states played out before committing Connecticut down the same path," according to CT Mirror.

In spite of this, advocates continue to push forward. A large advocate backing the bill is Connecticut's Sierra Club chapter — an organization that works to address environmental issues in the state.

"It also had the highest number of cosponsors in the committee and received significant public support," Connecticut's Sierra Club wrote in their 2026 Legislative Session Wrap Up.

Support for the superfund also comes from student groups as well, with younger generations advocating for climate change issues — including Maya Weathers, a senior chemistry and environmental science double-major and president of the Students for Environmental Action.

"We can already see that climate change is creating real costs for our local communities, and I think it's important that those costs are not placed entirely on taxpayers," Weathers said. "The major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions should be held accountable and play a role in funding climate adaptation projects. For the sake of our future communities, this is an important topic that deserves discussion, and I think this resolution is a good step in the right direction."

As an item on the Legislative Council's meeting consent calendar, the council voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

"The Town of Hamden recognizes the increasing threats posed by climate change, including extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, stronger storms, drought, brush fires, and other climate-related impacts affecting communities throughout Connecticut," the resolution states.

During the public comment section of the evening, several residents shared their support for the resolution and gratitude towards the council.

The first to share was Hamden resident Diana Hoffman.

Hoffman shared that in March 2025, she submitted a testimony to Hamden's Environment Committee in favor of the act. While addressing the council, she nodded to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' recent call for "all nations to transition away from fossil fuels and make polluters pay."

Hoffman noted Guterres' urge for leaders to take initiative.

"I believe he was talking to all of us," Hoffman said. "If we truly love our children, we must conserve and reduce our demand for the products that are destroying our planet, and we must establish a superfund to create a framework for major fossil fuel companies to contribute to the costs of climate-related damages, adaptation, resilience, mitigation."

Hamden resident Melinda Tuhus echoed Hoffman's sentiments.

"In 1989 my home was ground zero for a tornado, which as I said in my testimony last week, is not necessarily directly related to climate change, but…due to climate change, the frequency of tornadoes in Connecticut has basically doubled in the last, I think it was 10 years," Tuhus said.

Tuhus highlighted the effects of climate change on homeowners.

"I think these are very important things," Tuhus said. "I think that the burden on individual homeowners and on the town needs to be shared by the companies that are responsible for creating the problem."

Hamden's resolution not only shows the council's support, but could influence other towns in the state to voice their support for the act as well, as noted by Sarah Collins, a youth organizer for New Haven's Sunrise chapter — a youth-led organization working to fight climate change.

"Speaking on behalf of young people, not only are we grateful for those efforts, but Sunrise New Haven has been working alongside Sierra Club for the past year or so on trying to get the climate super fund passed at the state level," Collins said.

Collins continued to emphasize the importance of municipalities taking action, especially for the effect on younger generations.

"As we're talking about budget and funding, one thing to think about, especially young people, is how expensive climate change is going to be," Collins said. "Think about taxes. We right now pay for that when a rain storm wipes out a bridge or wipes out your roads. Taxpayers are paying for that when this is not things that we caused."

Photo: School of Communications honors alumni with Hall of Fame induction



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Left to right: Marlon LeWinter '03, Dean of the School of Communications Nadine Barnett Cosby, Amanda Gifford Lockwood '08 celebrate the SOC Hall of Fame ceremony.

By TYLER MIGNAULT
Photography Editor

Quinnipiac University's School of Communications inducted Amanda Gifford Lockwood '08 and Marlon LeWinter '03 into its Hall of Fame Oct. 3 during Bobcat Weekend.

Opening remarks were given by Dean of the School of Communications Nadine Barnett Cosby and sophomore film, television and media arts and sports communications double-major and School of Communications Student Ambassador President Trenton Hill.

Both Gifford and LeWinter reflected on their time at Quinnipiac when accepting their inductions.

"The memories were fond, and the courses, the instructors, the faculty that I was able to interact with while I was here was excellent," Gifford said.

LeWinter echoed her sentiment.

"Quinnipiac has always held a special place in my heart," LeWinter said. "The School of Communication has given me a place to turn my passion into my career, and seeing what the school has become today makes me incredibly proud to be one of its graduates."



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Gifford shares remarks after accepting her induction, reminiscing on her time at the university.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

LeWinter accepts his induction into the Hall of Fame, presented by Barnett Cosby.