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CTASLA Presents Connecticut Olmsted Award to U.S. Senator Chris Murphy

New Haven, CT — The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CTASLA) presented its annual **Connecticut Olmsted Award** to United States Senator Chris Murphy during a program at the State Capitol on April 25.

The Olmsted Award, named after Connecticut native Frederick Law Olmsted, who founded the modern landscape architecture profession in the 19th century, is given annually by CTASLA to an organization or person from Connecticut who has employed the principle of stewardship of the environment as a guiding force in their actions.

"Through his efforts in Congress, Senator Murphy has advocated for legislation that protects our natural resources, as well as funding to create parks and other outdoor recreational spaces that connect people to the environment in meaningful ways," said CTASLA president Thomas Hammerberg, a landscape architect at New Haven-based Stantec. "His work on behalf of Long Island Sound, the Farmington River watershed, and other landscapes here benefits not only Connecticut residents today, but also future generations."

Chris Murphy is the junior U.S. Senator from Connecticut. He serves on the Foreign Relations Committee; the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; and the Appropriations Committee. Senator Murphy is acknowledged as a leading voice for stronger anti-gun violence measures, a smarter foreign policy, reform of our nation's mental health system, and stewardship of the environment.

In Congress, Senator Murphy is helping to lead the fight to enact policies that combat climate change, with a focus locally on Long Island Sound and coastal resiliency. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he successfully fought back against efforts to eliminate Long Island Sound preservation funding, and instead helped triple federal funding for the Long Island Sound Geographic Program. He introduced the Living Shorelines Act, which would provide funding for local projects to build green coastal resiliency infrastructure. Additionally, as co-author, he helped enact the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act, a comprehensive bill that funds water quality improvements and shoreline habitat restoration projects.

Recently, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law Senator Murphy's Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Act. The new law creates a U.S. National Park Service protective "Wild and Scenic" river designation for

the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, making them eligible to receive as much as \$175,000 in federal funding to assist with conservation efforts.

Additionally, Senator Murphy has been a champion of preserving open space. Last year, he fought to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the only federal programs that provides dedicated funds for local and community parks and recreational facilities, giving communities access to green spaces while promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.

As a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, he also spearheaded the effort to provide robust funding for the Highlands Conservation Act — a program that helps fund land conservation projects in the densely populated Highlands region that includes parts of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In 2015, he led a successful effort to permanently extend the tax deduction for the donation of conservation easements, giving citizens a powerful incentive to preserve open space.

Prior to the Senate, Murphy served for three terms in the U.S. House, representing the state's fifth congressional district. Before being elected to Congress, he served for eight years in the Connecticut state legislature. Murphy graduated with honors from Williams College in Massachusetts and received his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Frederick Law Olmsted is best known for his creation of New York's Central Park as well as such prominent Connecticut landscapes as Bridgeport's Beardsley and Seaside Parks, New Britain's Walnut Hill Park, and Hartford's Pope Park. He is buried in Hartford's Old North Cemetery.

Past recipients of the CTASLA Connecticut Olmsted Award have included Senator Joseph Lieberman (1997); the Green Valley Institute (2004); State Senators Bill Finch (2005) and Andrew Roraback (2007); James Gustave Speth, Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (2009); William DeMaio, Director of the New Britain Parks and Recreation (2013); State Representative Terry Backer (2014), and Bushnell Park Foundation (2018). For a full list of recipients, see <http://olmstedlegacytrail.com/olmsted-award>.

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 15,000 members. Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation. ASLA promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication and fellowship.

Learn more about landscape architecture online at www.asla.org. For more information on activities of the Connecticut Chapter, please see our website at www.ctasla.org.

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