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- PRESS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ: FIFTH GRADERS OFFER SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

SECRETARY OF THE STATE HONORS DOZENS OF STUDENTS FROM ACROSS
CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR WINNING ESSAYS

Hartford: Surrounded by 25 aspiring writers, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz presented awards to the winners of her office's 15th Annual Essay Contest at a ceremony in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol. More than 1,000 fifth graders from across Connecticut submitted essays this year. Students were asked to write about what things they could do to reduce global warming and help protect our environment. Essay topics ranged from reducing energy use and increasing recycling programs to raising more pigs in order to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills.

"Climate change and global warming and protecting our environment are the most complex yet important problems for our state and our country to solve, and we're going to need all the creative thinking we can get," said Bysiewicz. "Some of the most creative solutions often come from the unlikeliest of sources. It is my hope that this essay contest will inspire a life long interest among these young writers and thinkers in getting involved in their communities and helping to solve tough problems like global warming."

A set of five winning essays was selected from each of Connecticut's five congressional districts. Each set consisted of a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner, along with two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored at today's event received a \$25 gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore. The essay contest winners are listed below:

Congressional District 1

1st Place, Lexie Lopez, Naylor School, Hartford
2nd Place, Nicole Colon, South Elementary, Windsor Locks
3rd Place, Taylor Stafford, Keeney School, Manchester
Honorable Mention, Anna Rose Zampano, Brownstone Intermediate School, Portland
Honorable Mention, Alyssa Morrissey, Saint Thomas School, Southington

Congressional District 2

1st Place, Lydia Swenarton, Mystic Middle School, Mystic
2nd Place, Peter Barbalich, Saint Martha School, Enfield
3rd Place, Haley Duba, Mystic Middle School, Mystic
Honorable Mention, Adeline Visscher, Saint Michael School, Pawcatuck
Honorable Mention, Kathryn Fanelli, Lyme Consolidated School, Lyme

Congressional District 3

1st Place, Michelle Buzzanca, Lordship School, Stratford
2nd Place, Samantha Kennedy, E.C. Stevens Elementary School, Wallingford
3rd Place, Alyssa Martin, E.C. Stevens Elementary School, Wallingford
Honorable Mention, Lindsay Lucifora, Saint James School
Honorable Mention, Trent Nayve, Saint Mary-Saint Michael

Congressional District 4

1st Place, Connor Lynch, Saint Thomas Aquinas School, Fairfield
2nd Place, Alexandra Zannino, Daniels Farm School, Trumbull
3rd Place, Rachael Swenson, All Saints Catholic School
Honorable Mention, Kiera Xanthos, Holmes Elementary School, Darien
Honorable Mention, Addison MacKenzie, New Canaan Country School, New Canaan

Congressional District 5

1st Place, Madison Manware, Saint Bridget School, Cheshire
2nd Place, Sophie Kuchel, Thompson Brook School, Avon
3rd Place, Samantha Aube, Thompson Brook School, Avon
Honorable Mention, Maggie Yeung, Saint Stanislaus School, Meriden
Honorable Mention, Lorenzo Muniz, Saint Stanislaus School, Meriden