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To: Senator Toni Harp and Representative John Geragosian, Co-Chairs, and  
Members, Appropriations Committee, CT General Assembly

Dear Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian and Members of the Committee,

I write to urge you to do everything in your power to preserve the use of the Community Investment Fund for its intended purposes: open space and farmland preservation, historic preservation and affordable housing. Especially in difficult economic times, these remain sound investments in a sustainable economy. Connecticut is developing a strong local food production base, and farmland preservation encourages that. The historic character of our State and its beautiful and unique balance of city, suburb and rural development contribute significantly to our quality of life and make the State an attractive place to live and work. Those qualities attract new businesses and help retain existing businesses. Affordable housing is essential to maintaining an adequate workforce. Diversion of these funds to other purposes would be shortsighted and hamper economic development, especially economic development that is targeted toward a "green economy."

Please delete or significantly modify Section 1w, lines 103-107 of Governor's Bill No. 828. As now written, given the reduction in real estate recording fees, there will be NO money available for purposes that are essential to the long term health of our environment and our economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary-Michelle U. Hirschhoff