

February 17, 2009

TO: Members of the Appropriation Committee

FROM: Peg Moran, Friends in the County Cut Flowers
81 Mary Hall Road
Pawcatuck, CT 06378

RE: Oppose Diversion of Community Investment Act Funds

I want to express strong objection to the proposal to divert Community Investment Act funds.

Last year, I applied to the Town of Stonington to put up a small farm stand at my home. In order to do so, I was required to apply for a zoning permit. The fee was \$80. When I objected to such a large fee for such a small project, the clerk nodded in agreement then told me that \$30 of the amount would go to fund the Community Investment Act. **She explained that these funds include money to preserve agricultural land. I brightened at the thought that my money would do direct good for a cause I dearly love -- farming -- and gladly paid the fee.**

If you divert Community Investment Act funds to other uses, you fail to keep your public commitment. Additional fees collected reluctantly by each town will be nothing more than an additional general tax on individual citizen's resources.

Regards,

Peg Moran
Pawcatuck, CT