



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 18, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM has concerns with **Proposed House Bill 5264** *"An Act Protecting Municipally Acquired Open Space"*

This proposal would mandate that any property -- even if purchased with municipal-only funding -- purchased with the initial intention of preserving open space be held so in perpetuity.

CCM and its members have consistently supported more funding and protection for open space. The intent of this proposal is laudable - to protect undeveloped land.

However, land decisions made with local funds via a local decision-making process should be allowed to be changed via the same process should the needs of the community change. It would be wrong for the State to dictate to local governments what they can do with items purchased with their own funds.

CCM understands the concern that future generations be aware of the purpose for which such land was originally purchased, and we are willing to work with proponents of this bill to see if mutually agreeable language can be crafted that would accomplish that goal without unduly tying the hands of municipalities.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.