

To: The Honorable Members of the Joint Planning and Development Committee

From: Roberta Paro

246A Yantic Street

Norwich, CT 06360

860-889-2948

robertaparo1@hotmail.com

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Re: Land Value Tax

I am a member of the Sierra Club and someone who would like to see us create a society where the entire web of life flourishes.

The Land Value Tax (Bills 379 and 392) seems to be the fairest and smartest form of taxation that we have at our disposal. Proposed as enabling legislation, the land value tax allows those cities that implement it to shift their municipal property taxes from the buildings that are on the land to taxing the value of the land. Penalties for investing in properties and making improvements to them would decline, as would blight. The Land Value Tax also promotes the use of land where infrastructure already exists, thereby helping to preserve open space and habitat needed for preserving the web of life.

As leaders, part of your job is to find and recognize good ideas and then find ways to put them into action. You have an opportunity with the Land Value Tax to do just that.