



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE SANDY H. NAFIS
27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4047
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (860) 666-9287
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1902
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Sandy.Nafis@cga.ct.gov

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE SANDY NAFIS, 27TH DISTRICT OF NEWINGTON AND SENATOR PAUL DOYLE, 9TH DISTRICT

**In Support of Raised Bill 5520 – An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain
Parcels of State Land.**

Public Hearing Friday, March 19, 2010

Many thanks to the Governmental Administration and Elections committee for raising this bill for a Public Hearing today. Raised Bill 5520, Section 3, would convey approximately 40 acres from the 71+-acre State-owned property containing Cedar Ridge Hospital to the Town of Newington. This parcel of land would be used for open space purposes and is west of and below the existing hospital and cottage area. The parcel includes the ridge line of the mountain and ends near two existing State-owned group homes on Mountain Road. We urge you to support this piece of legislation.

For generations, Cedar Mountain has been an important natural resource for Newington. The Old Cedar Mountain Highway Trail is part of the Cedar Mountain/Banf Park Ridgeline Vista Trail, which makes up one of the four corridors of the Newington Greenway System. It is designated by the Connecticut Greenways Council as a state greenway.

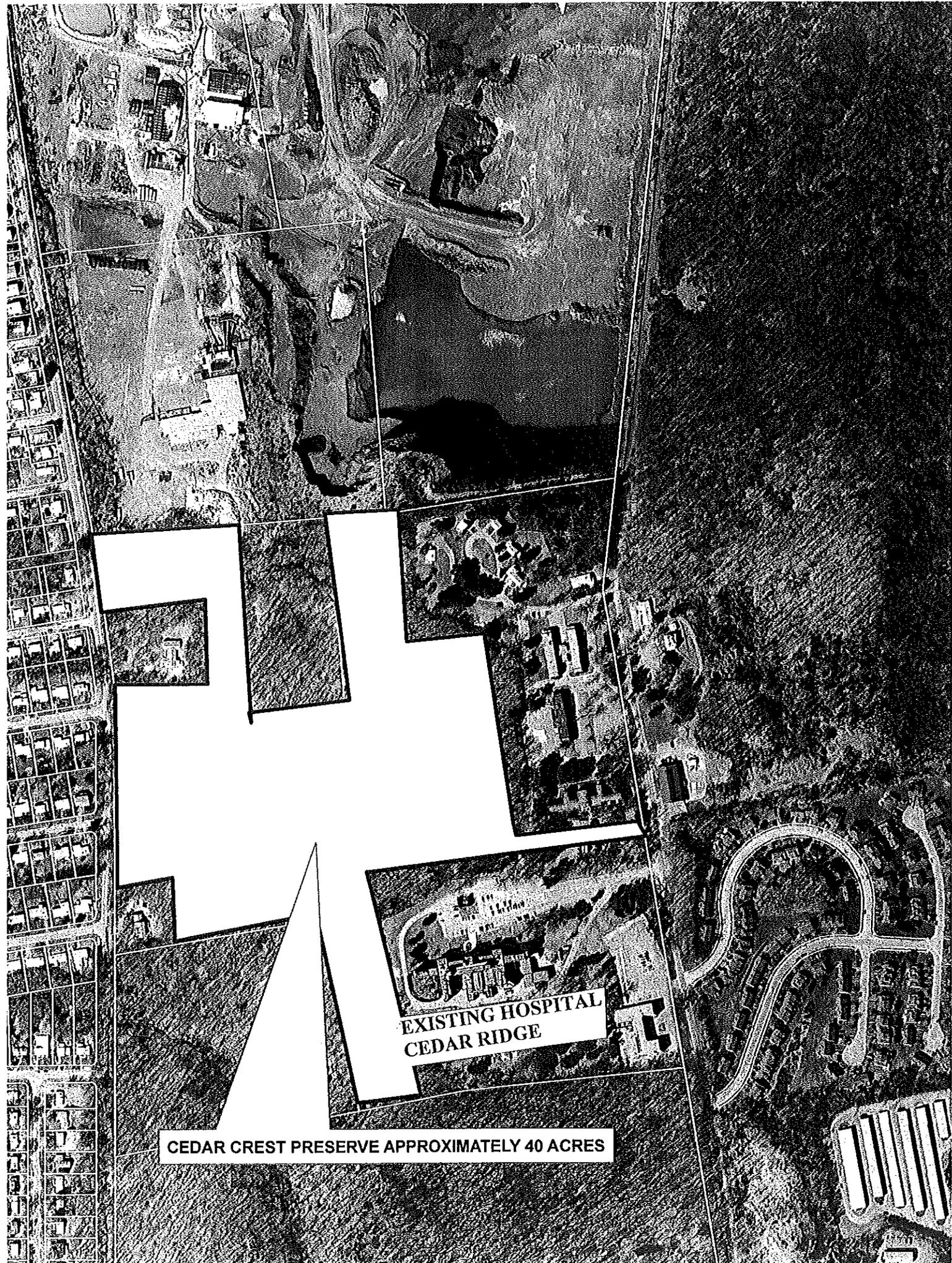
The Cedar Ridge ecological zone contains one of Connecticut's seven essential trap rock ridges. This open space system includes unique rock structures, wetlands and vernal ponds which are critical habitat for a number of rare plants and animals. The rustic and natural environment of this area must be preserved for all to enjoy, and the 40 acres contributed through this bill will help to protect the habitat and the land for future generations.

The Department of Environmental Protection has been supportive in past years by awarding open space grants in the past several years. Unfortunately, we have been unable to use these grants and turned them back to the state due to purchasing issues with owners of other parcels of the mountain.

In the past year, residents of Newington have formed a group called "Save Cedar Mountain". The group is working with local and state officials to preserve and to save our mountain.

The Cedar Ridge Open Space Preserve is a scenic and valuable natural resource. It contains essential habitat and is a part of our state legacy to future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support in favor of this bill.



**EXISTING HOSPITAL
CEDAR RIDGE**

CEDAR CREST PRESERVE APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES

