

Testimony on Behalf of the
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Environment Committee -January 31, 2011

My name is David Bingham. I serve as a co-chair of the CT League of Conservation Voters, and speak in support of Raised Senate Bill 834.

Margaret Minor, executive director of the Rivers Alliance could not be here to testify. She has asked me to note that SB 834 would provide many benefits for the rivers of CT. She has submitted separate testimony.

SB 834, ostensibly, is AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE. As such it would enable our towns and cities to create a separate dedicated fund from a local conveyance fee, for purchasing and protecting open space - a Community Green Fund, if you like.

However, this bill is far more than that. Much of what such a fund could provide for is green jobs, jobs, jobs!

Section 1.2 specifically provides funding for brownfield remediation, a necessary but costly and labor-intensive activity.

Under Section 1.3 municipalities could also fund "other environmental projects." This language is too vague. We believe the bill should specify other job-creating conservation projects eligible under the bill, including proposals for

- water treatment and storm sewers,
- clean air projects,
- energy conservation,
- alternative transportation infrastructure,
- historic preservation
- green building retrofits.