March 19, 2012

Connecticut Legislature Hearing on Conveyance Bill #5519, Section 14 (conveyance to Yeomans)

Dear Sirs and Madame;

We support Bill #5519, section 14 stating that land taken by the state should be returned to the owner. The state bought the land for a continuation of Route 384 through Andover; the state never used the land for a highway. The state bought the land from our aunt Alice Moe and we are her heirs. This is a pristine piece of unfragmented forest and wetlands---a beautiful nature sanctuary.

Said parcel of land has an area of approximately 9. 9 acres and is identified as a certain parcel of land on the southerly side of Bear Swamp Road that constitutes Department of Transportation File #32-114-53.

There are over one hundred acres of land that has been owned and preserved by the Yeomans' families since at least 1739, when their ancestors, the Sprague Family built a house on this sheep homestead. Katharine Yeomans owns the adjoining portion of the original plot and we had 85 acres until the state took 9.9 acres. The state land sliced through our property leaving our land on the other side inaccessible to us.

*By CT statute the land is offered first to the owner. We are Alice Moe's heirs.

*Andrea Mullin, Bunker Hill Road received a conveyance because her mother had died. This establishes a precedent that the owners' heirs should be considered first.

*The land should be returned to this family that has preserved this large parcel for almost 300 years.

*The forest needs thinning and the only good way to do without harming the wetlands is by entrance on the Bear Swamp Road, which is presently inaccessible to our land.

*The state held the land for thirty five years; the state did not use it for the highway purpose.

We realize sometimes land is taken for the common good; but this land was never used for that purpose and should be returned to the owner because it is right and just to do so.

Peter Yeomans

Dorothy Yeomans

63 Bunker Hill Rd., Andover, CT 06232

<u>Previous statutes and actions</u> incl. Committee Bill No. 336, LCO No.5052 (05052B00336GAE) 1/19/09

Procedure for sale of land obtained by the state for highway purposes by those abutting Rt. 6Section 13a Sale of land to abutting landowners. Approved 21-8. (Amendment Tally) 4/28/09

File 643 Senate Bill 336 Sale of land to abutting landowners allowing abutting owners to purchase a below the appraisal price. Approved by committee 14-0 3/ 27 /09