

**From:** ruth.cutler@ <att.net ruth.cutler@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2013 11:48 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fully support the Community Investment Act

Please fully support the Community Investment Act. Those of us who have worked on our town plans rely on long term funding to maintain the character of our towns and attract people to invest in our businesses.

Create a new fund under the Dept. of Education budget for the Healthy Food Initiative where budgets for meals should be part of school planning. Good food is often less expensive if properly prepared. Most often schools rely on what kids will eat, what is ordinarily found on school lunch menu's and is easy to prepare. Perhaps the educators need to educate the school kitchens on how to prepare low cost healthy food. We do not need to raid long term funding for open spaces to have good food on the menus of our schools where education would be effective.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Cutler

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**From:** ruth.cutler@ <att.net ruth.cutler@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2013 11:31 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** fully support the Community Investment Act

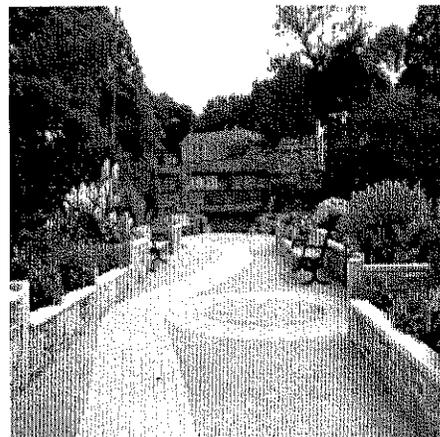
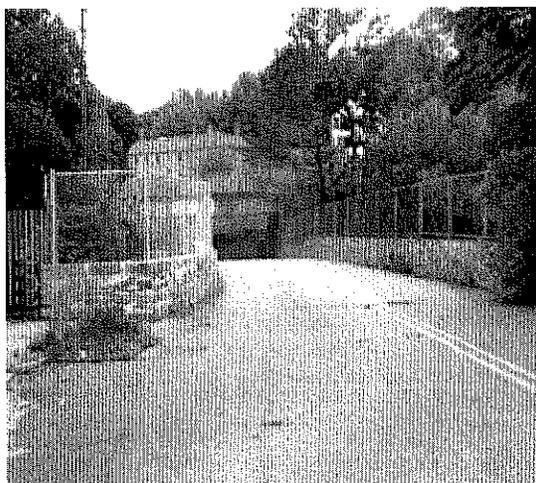
We all know the state of affairs in relationship to the deficit and how difficult it is to make choices. However the Community Investment Act supports a future at a cost right now less than it will be when the market goes back up. Open space, farm land and historic preservation and community gardens are of public benefit — and define the character of our state.

I was one of the volunteer designers of the Windham Garden on the Bridge in Willimantic. The old stone arch bridge was to be torn down. Volunteer labor and design and state/federal funding saved the bridge. As a result of the effort the area became attractive enough that the vacant mill next to the bridge became "Art Space" artist housing. The funding paid for the construction of the Garden on The Bridge but the spirit of the community got it built. Available funding provides the ability to channel a vision and community energy into a positive finished project that is a source of pride.

CT needs the ability to retain its character, continue to be uniquely CT and attract back to our state those who wish to work here and invest their time and money here. That population is drawn to the beauty and availability of CT open spaces, local farm produce and historic towns.

Please fully support the Community Investment Act. and create a new fund for the Healthy Foods Initiative under the Dept. of Education budget.

Before and After, The Windham Garden on the Bridge



Sincerely,

Ruth Cutler