Groton Open Space Association, Inc.
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GOSA

To: Appropriations Committee, Education Committee, CT State Legislature
From: Groton Open Space Association, Inc.
Date: February 14, 2013
Subject: Testimony, HB No. 6357

We ask that the committees oppose the section of HB 6357 which proposes adding the Healthy foods Initiative as a new CIA funded program.

We ask that the Healthy Foods Initiative be funded as a stand-alone line item under the Department of Education budget.

Although the Healthy Foods Initiative is a worthy program, we contend that that it should not be funded through the CIA, which was established in 2005 to fund specific land use issues, such as open space, farmland preservation/dairy support, historic properties and affordable housing.

Our organization has benefitted from CIA funding through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWLA). We have permanently preserved two large parcels in Groton, and we plan a third acquisition in 2013, using CIA funding. As a grass-roots volunteer organization, we would not have been able to afford protection of this land for future generations without the support of CIA funding. Once the land is gone, it will be gone forever. CIA funding is critical to this program.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Joan Smith
President Groton Open Space Association, Inc.