

Gentlemen:

Having just returned from a few days out of town, I have just learned of the attempt to divert funds from the Community Investment Fund for school lunch programs. Although that sounds like a worthy cause, these are funds for Land use.

When the property transfer tax was enacted several years ago, these funds were always designated to be used ONLY for the four land uses: affordable housing, open space protection, farmland preservation and historic preservation.

As Chairman of the New Canaan Preservation Alliance I strongly disagree with Gov. Malloy's Budget proposal to raid this fund. With grants from the historic preservation fund, our Alliance and many other preservation organizations across the state have been actively surveying our town's historic properties in order to identify and then advocate for their protection.

Furthermore, historic house museums, already suffering from the economic collapse of five years ago, have been able to obtain capital funds for major restoration projects, providing jobs and services in the community, and increasing tourism. The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion in Norwalk, has recently been awarded such a grant to install a sprinkler system and an elevator, handicapped ramp and bathrooms all to comply with the ADA requirements and make the museum, a National Historic Landmark, more accessible to the public.

Lower Fairfield County attracts tourism and demonstrates a very high quality of life BECAUSE of the preservation of its historic lands and buildings, and this fund is critical to that success.

Thank you,

Mimi Findlay
10 Father Peters Lane
New Canaan CT 06840