

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. HB No. 6357

Before and After, The Windham Garden on the Bridge



Sincerely,

Ruth Cutler