

March 6, 2013

Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

Reference: **HB6539** AN ACT CONCERNING THE FORMER SUNRISE RESORT PROPERTY

Chairman Meyer, Chairman Gentile, ranking member Chapin, ranking member Shaban and members of the Environment Committee:

I appreciate your efforts to ascertain the plans from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the Sunrise Resort State Park; however, I do not feel this bill is strong enough.

The original bill HB5261 submitted by Representative Ziobron required the DEEP to develop a plan for the State Park, "That the general statutes be amended to require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to develop a plan for the use of the Sunrise State Park that ensures the safety of the premises."

I would be in support of this bill if this original language was reinstated and an expressed forbiddance to sell Sunrise Resort State Park be added.

There are many creative ways the property could be constructively cared for. For example, I believe the Girl Scouts and/or Boy Scouts of Connecticut (or America) would be happy to enter into a concession agreement to take over management of the State Park for camping, fishing and many of the outdoor recreational activities it is so perfect for.

This is very unique land and should not have been allowed to disintegrate as it has, but even with the budgetary constraints, a viable environmental partnership could be sought.

Therefore, I would support this bill if it expressly stated that the property not be sold under any circumstance.

Thank you for your efforts to protect our beautiful green state,

Melissa Schlag

33 Little Fawn Trail
Higganum, CT 06441
860-398-0569
melissaschlag@hotmail.com