

Via email: env.testimony@cga.ct.gov

Environment Committee
Public Hearing
Friday, March 8, 2013
Testimony in Support of Re: HB-6539
An Act Concerning the former Sunrise Resort Property

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

My name is Tinamarie Berger, I reside in Moodus and I support HB-6539 for the following reasons. The purchase of this property by the State of Connecticut was intended to promote recreation and protect open space and wildlife has become an unsafe environment prone to vandals and squatters.

It is disheartening to see this property fall into a state of disrepair at the hands of the State. What was once a place of childhood memories has become a place that I do not feel safe bringing my own children. Instead of finding a means of protecting this space by finding a means of opening it to overnight guests, the State has left it to the elements.

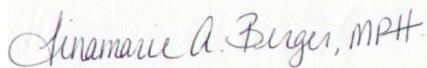
Sunrise Resort is not just a plot of land in my beloved hometown; it is a piece of my personal history. Long before it was called Sunrise Resort, back when it was known as Frank Davis Resort, I was a child that could barely see over the counter at the snack bar. It was the place my father performed contracting work while I played at the kiddie pool. Fast forward to age 13 when I had my first job as a babysitter at Sunrise Resort. That job soon turned into a position in the miniature golf shack. Each summer I worked my way up the ranks.

Sunrise Resort was a hands-on summer school for local teens. We learned customer service and interacted with coworkers from all over the country and the world. The most important lesson learned was work ethic. Hard work was expected and in return we were able to enjoy the property when that work was done. I tell my children that everything I needed to know about life, I learned while working at Sunrise Resort.

This property is an important piece of East Haddam history. While the State has saved the property from development it has not saved the property from destruction. If the State does not formulate a comprehensive plan to maintain the property, it will only fall into greater disrepair.

The former Sunrise State Park is a unique outdoor space. There is great potential for the State to utilize the property while maintaining the history of the property's former glory days. This is not possible if the State continues to ignore the property. Therefore I support HB-6539.

Sincerely,



Tinamarie Berger, MPH
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cc: Melissa Ziobron (melissa.ziobron@housegop.ct.gov)