

Environment Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 8, 2013  
Testimony in Support of Proposed Bill HB -6539  
An Act Concerning the Former Sunrise Resort Property

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you bringing this bill before a Public Hearing. As a lifelong resident of Moodus, Connecticut I not only support proposed bill HB-6539 but urge this committee and the State of Connecticut to take action immediately on the former Sunrise Resort property.

Growing up here in town, I think just about everyone here worked at the resort at one time. And if you didn't work there, one of your family members did. My own father was a "green man" when the resort was known as Ted Hiltons. I too believe we would be remiss if we did not mention the historical nature of this site. Tens of thousands of high school class days were spent at this location, hundreds of summer jobs were produced by this site and the history of Connecticut resorts began and ended an era at this site.

The State of Connecticut was fortunate in purchasing the Sunrise parcel. Many developers offered sums greater than the agreed purchase price to the sellers (The Johnson Family). Yet the Johnson family sold the property to the State of Connecticut in an effort to protect the site. I along with many others applauded this venture. Only those directly involved in the negotiation can say what the intent of the purchase was however anyone with responsible sense would be able to surmise it was never the intent of the seller to see his property deteriorate to a complete state of disarray. I personally am very disappointed by the lack of respect the State of Connecticut has shown to the sellers, and the lack of respect the State of Connecticut has exemplified to all tax payers.

This property had such potential, and I truly believe it still does. There was absolutely no reason for this neglect. It is truly a shame. This property is a State Asset, you need to treat it as such.

It is imperative that this committee passes bill HB-6539. It is a matter of integrity, respect and validation. The State of Connecticut needs to demonstrate integrity of its control and management of assets. The State of Connecticut must exhibit respect for the tax payers and those who have sold or would consider selling property to the State of Connecticut. So many people could benefit from you doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Lisa Poland Zawisza

56 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike

Moodus, CT 06469

