



SALMON RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

March 7, 2013

Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 5100
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Raised Bill No. 6539, Regarding Sunrise Resort State Park, East Haddam, CT

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Salmon River Watershed Partnership, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced bill. Unfortunately, I will be out of state on Friday so will not be able to offer testimony in person.

The Partnership is comprised of appointed members from the Towns of Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, and Marlborough and representatives from The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Trout Unlimited, Colchester Land Trust and Friends of Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge in Haddam.

The Partnership was formed in 2007 and the Salmon River Watershed Conservation Compact was signed in 2008 by the leaders of each of the ten Watershed Towns as a commitment to work together to ensure the long-term environmental health and vitality of the watershed.

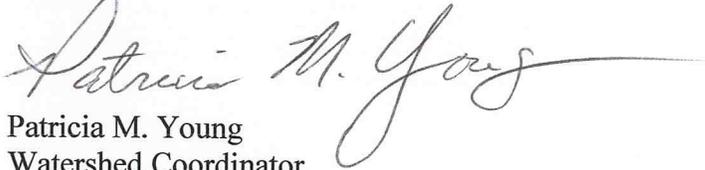
The Salmon River Watershed is recognized locally, statewide and nationally as a priority ecological system. With 146 acres and 4,700 linear feet of frontage on the Salmon River, Sunrise State Park is an important member of key preservation lands in the Salmon River Watershed. Its purchase by the State of Connecticut in 2009 demonstrated the commitment of the State leaders to protect the River.

The recent add-on phrase "*or sale of such property*" to the bill is clearly a vast departure from the stated purpose of preservation upon acquisition. The language needs to be

modified to reflect the original intent by the State of Connecticut that Sunrise State Park be preserved land in perpetuity. The Salmon River Watershed Partnership respectfully requests that the Environment Committee reaffirms the State's promise of preservation by removing the "*or sale of such property*" clause.

Again thank you for the opportunity to offer comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions about the Salmon River Watershed or Partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia M. Young". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Patricia M. Young
Watershed Coordinator
Salmon River Watershed Partnership
1066 Saybrook Road
Haddam, CT 06438
(860) 345-8700

salmonriverct@att.net
www.salmonriverct.org