

Testimony of John C. Hall  
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*Section 6*

To the Government Administration and Elections Committee  
March 25, 2013

*1,500*

I am writing in regard to Raised Bill 6672 in support of the provision that would establish permanent conservation of the lands surround the reservoirs in the Maromas section of Middletown. The property in question comprises approximately 500 acres and is currently owned by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). In particular, I urge all members of the Connecticut General Assembly to support the provision of Bill 6672 that would grant a conservation easement for these lands to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The area of Middletown known as Maromas remains a virtually pristine wilderness area of our city. The reservoirs have spectacular beauty, surrounded as they are by hills, rock outcroppings, mature hardwood forest, and a profusion of mountain laurel beneath the canopy. The land around the reservoirs is a very special hiking area, with many long and short loop trails available for hikers of all ages and abilities. Needless to say, this whole area is a valuable outdoor resource not just for the people of Middletown but for residents of surrounding communities and the whole region.

While I have no reason to believe that Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) currently has plans to sell land around the 6 reservoirs for development, it is for that very reason that I urge our General Assembly and Governor to protect this land now, before pressures develop that would endanger this scenic recreational area. Future generations should be assured of access to the trails around the reservoirs, even if CVH and DMHAS decide at some point not to use the reservoirs as a source of water for the hospital.

I strongly endorse permanent protection from development of the reservoir lands that are the subject of the "Land Title Report, Southerly Watershed Properties, Connecticut Valley Hospital 1866-2007", as prepared by Attorney John E. Hudson.

The Jonah Center for Earth and Art is a grassroots environmental education and advocacy nonprofit based in Middletown, with strong ties to Wesleyan University and the City of Middletown. We are grateful for the work done by a partner organization AMP (A Maromas Plan) that has taken a leadership role in this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Hall

**Written**  
**3/25/13**