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My name is Chris Pitts, and I live in Canterbury, Connecticut.

I served on the Canterbury Democratic Town Committee, and run The Quiet Corner Democrats, a regional political group based in NE Connecticut. I wanted to share with the GAE Committee my **opposition to SB 1146**.

Obviously the issue of cross-endorsements is being discussed this session because concerned people see a problem with our current system. I would agree that in the last election cycle, with the notable increase in multiple ballot lines, there is a cause for at least discussion, if not concern. A proliferation of ballot lines for candidates already on the ballot, should it continue to increase, could very soon have the inevitable result of creating ballot confusion – a result we should all be against.

However, I do not think the problem is caused by the time-honored practice of ballot fusion (or cross-endorsements) but rather it is the result of allowing ballot access to groups that are not truly political parties. I would suggest that unless a group truly represents a sizable group of Connecticut electors that group should not receive ballot access on its own party line, but should be encouraged to become petitioning candidates. You need to have a discussion that includes all the stake holders to set reasonable standards for ballot access that will not compromise Connecticut's voting system.

Ballot fusion has a long and time honored tradition in our country – **and I have personally watched it increase the engagement level of voters and volunteers in Northeastern Connecticut**. I would ask that Connecticut's Legislators take measured steps on this issue so that the process is not harmed in the attempt to protect the process!

Respectfully,

Chris Pitts

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