

Government Administrations and Elections Committee
Room 2200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony IN FAVOR of HB6672 and HB1146

OPPOSED to HB1148

March 25,2013

HB6672 – IN FAVOR

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of the GAE committee,

Thank you for your continued efforts to serve the citizens of Connecticut. I would like to write in SUPPORT of HB 6672, this year's conveyance bill. This bill will finally put to rest a very bad policy that dates back to 2009.

Section 10 of HB6672 would repeal the "Haddam land swap." This repeal will bring with it a return of faith in our public officials to protect the conservation land along the river that makes our state beautiful.

I hope that land set aside for conservation will never again be traded as surplus land.

HB1146 – IN FAVOR

It is very difficult to start a third party and keep active membership up, nonetheless run a candidate. A party that does the work to run their own candidate should not be competing with a major party candidate who is also cross endorsed on another line or even more than one line. I believe HB1146 is a start in making a fairer process of a very unfair election system in Connecticut.

As the Green party candidate for the 33rd district senate seat in the 2012 election, I have learned firsthand that the public financing and petitioning process is prohibitively unfair to minor parties.

To have a major party candidate also listed as a cross endorsed candidate on the "Independent" party line or any other third party line is even more difficult to compete with in the already unfair process.

I hope in the future you will make the Citizens Election Program fairer as well and much more inclusive for all parties.

HB1148 – OPPOSED

I am strongly opposed to HB1148. Our FOI rules were created to protect the interests of the public and this change throws a heavy cloak over open government. This bill is a detrimental step backwards for the citizens of Connecticut.

This bill does not serve the people in any way and will only make our government seem more suspicious to the electors.

Our elected officials need to represent us in an open, honest and trustworthy way.

Openness and transparency are tantamount to our government.

I ask you to withdraw HB1148 for all citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Melissa Schlag
Co-Chair
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