

re: HB 6542, the preservation of Farmland at Southbury Training School

I have lived less than a mile away from the Southbury Training School property since 1996. I strongly agree that this acreage is important to the quality of life in Southbury.

The farmland and preserves in this area have been a valuable part of our lives. When my son was little, I began taking him with me to volunteer for the Southbury Land Trust work days, pruning and clearing brush in parcels all over town. I wanted him to experience a connection to the land and beauty of nature, the way I did on visits to my uncle's farmland in Minnesota as a child.

For about 8 years, I drove up Spruce Brook Rd every week to the Purchase area above the Training School, to take my son to his piano lesson. My single favorite spot in this whole region is the view from the hills up there. I cherish it. For me, the ability to have this experience of farmland has an profound impact on my humanity, a connection to the earth. It is rare these days to find rolling country hills that provide such a quality of life, so accessible to a highway like Route 84. That means it is also too vulnerable to development, and needs our protection.

Thank you.

Deborah Winograd
26 Surrey Lane
Southbury, CT 06488
(203) 262-8827