



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

Memorandum:

TO: Government Administration and Elections Committee

FROM: Commissioner Patricia Rehmer, DMHAS

DATE: March 17, 2014

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on House Bill 5550

Good Morning Senator Musto, Representative Jutilla and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Commissioner Patricia Rehmer of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, I am writing today to raise concerns regarding HB 5550 An Act Concerning Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land.

Section 11 of the bill before you would give to a 3rd party, a conservation easement over the reservoir property at Connecticut Valley Hospital. This land surrounds our reservoirs which supply water to our CVH campus as well as the other state properties in that area. We take the preservation of that land very seriously because of the critical role these reservoirs play in the operation of our hospital.

While we certainly want to protect these lands and have a solid record of doing so, we do not support the concept of giving a conservation easement to a third party. We are currently researching the issue of providing additional protections for the land surrounding the reservoirs and believe there may be other avenues available to provide these additional protections without giving the land away.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.