

To: Honorable Committee Members

From: Linda Bowers, Middletown

Re: Raised Bill No. 5550 Land Conveyance Bill 2014 Sec. 11

Protection of the CT Valley Hospital Reservoirs and Watersheds

We in Middletown who consider ourselves conservationists are very pleased that Rep. Lesser has included in the land conveyance bill a section that is very important to us; Sec. 11 CVH Reservoir protection. The six reservoirs and the nearly 500 acres of watershed which comprise this system are located in the Maromas section of the city and currently serve as drinking water supply for the CT Valley Hospital. Maromas, which is between Route 9 and the CT River in the southern part of the City, is a beloved part of town for its rural and wild character. It is crisscrossed by the Blue Blazed Trail (now part of the New England Trail) of the CT Forest and Park Association and is used by nature enthusiasts, hikers and bikers. Protection of the CVH Reservoirs is consistent with the State Plan of Conservation and Development and with the plans of the City because these lands are adjacent to parts of Cockaponset Forest, and part of a larger forest comprised of CL&P and The Nature Conservancy properties.

We are very concerned about the future of these reservoirs should the Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services decide to no longer use them as drinking water supply, however the ultimate language protecting these lands should allow for DMHAS improvements and maintenance necessary for the protection and provision of safe and adequate potable water. Easement language should preserve the land in perpetuity, predominately in its natural scenic and open condition for the protection of natural resources and public water supplies while allowing for recreation consistent with such protection. We believe that intense development of this reservoir area would be harmful, including golf courses, driving ranges, tennis courts, ballfields, swimming pools and uses by motorized vehicles other than vehicles needed to carry out water company purposes, except for pedestrian and non-motorized bike trails.

We welcome further protection of these lands of statewide significance.