

**Comment in support of SB-70, An Act Concerning the Preservation of Lands Under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture**

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile:

I am writing on behalf of the Branford Land Trust, Inc. to convey the Land Trust's strong support for SB-70. The Land Trust's Board and many of its members were extremely upset by and opposed to the recent attempt to convey open space land along the Connecticut River in Haddam to a developer. By facilitating the development of what people reasonably thought of as dedicated open space, the proposed Haddam land swap called into question the idea that dedicated open space is truly protected "in perpetuity", and made the Land Trust's mission to preserve Branford's open space more difficult. It's critically important that Connecticut residents can trust that land acquired for open space by land trusts, towns or the state will continue to be maintained for the purposes originally intended. Please do all that you can to move this bill forward to enactment during this legislative session.

We thank you and the rest of the Environment Committee for proposing this important bill and for your efforts to fully protect Connecticut's open space resources in the future.

Sincerely,

Amos Barnes, President

Branford Land Trust