

Members of the Environment Committee:

I urge your SUPPORT of SB 70, An act regarding STATE CONSERVATION LANDS.

As a life-long resident of Wallingford, and as a CPA who works with nonprofits organizations and counsels clients regarding charitable contributions of land, the over-riding concern is the desire for preserved open space lands to be TRULY PRESERVED IN PERPETUITY.

Our town alone has worked hard to amass 2300 acres of municipally owned open space. The best info I have indicates the total price for all of it (paid in excess of donations) is \$15.5 million. Of that, only about \$2.9 million (again, latest figures available) was paid with outside dollars (state or federal funds).

When open space dollars are used to conserve and PRESERVE open space land, the State has made an ethical contract with the residents involved in the initial transaction. Those residents selling land, or donating land, or selling at a bargain sale to the State, do so in good faith that the land will be preserved as open space IN PERPETUITY. Otherwise, they could sell for a much higher price to developers. Of the individuals I have personally worked with, in my career, to make a donation or bargain sale to the town for open space land, their main concerns were that the land not revert to development. The State needs to honor that trust, or I feel people will not sell or donate land for open space.

Please PLEASE support SB 70.

Thank you.

Dianne Saunders
72 Northford Rd.
Wallingford, CT 06492
(203)215-3535
drsanders@snet.net