

I am writing in support of this Bill, RB70, which would provide four more distinct measures by which our State owned open spaces will be more protected than they currently are. The State of Connecticut has legislated; mandated, vowed that 21% of its territory will be designated as conserved and preserved. Eleven percent of that promise has been charged to municipalities, Land Trusts and the like, with 10% remaining for the State to provide. It has taken a long time to get to this point of further protecting these designated properties, gifted or purchased, in many cases, by private citizens of the State of Connecticut, towards the public good. When these parcels, totaling some 225,000 acres now, were initially set aside by whatever means, they were entrusted to the State for their care, management and protection. There are enough threats to preserved open space without the public having to constantly worry about & keep an eye out for the possibility of a breach of that trust by a ' Trustee' of these properties. Public lands should not to be put in play for trading or for money. The State is responsible for completing its own portion of the mandate of the 21% of land in our State being set aside as open space. As efforts are moving towards that goal, the State must insure that these lands are not just **preserved** on paper, but that real, defendable safe guards are place to keep them **protected in perpetuity**.

I look forward to this Bill moving forward, in its entirety, in the legislative process and becoming law in our State. It is a good start towards providing better protection for our public lands.

Thank you.

Katherine Wadsworth  
Farmington, Connecticut

Former Board Member, former president, Farmington Land Trust  
Current Board Member, CT League of Conservation Voters