



February 17, 2014

TO: Sen. Ed Meyer and Rep. Linda Gentile, Chairmen, and Members of the Committee on the Environment

**RE: Public Hearing on Senate Bill 70, An Act Concerning the Preservation of Lands Under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture**

The Southbury Land Trust strongly urges passage of Senate Bill 70. The provisions in this bill will help to protect public lands from transfers of title and other actions not compatible with the conservation values of these properties. In recent years attempts to undermine public lands protections have demonstrated the need to strengthen these protections, which SB 70 would do.

If the stated goal of preserving 21 per cent of Connecticut's land as open space is to have any meaning for future generations, the land will require the improved protections contained in SB 70. Without them, the land will be vulnerable.

We thank you for raising this bill and urge you to pass it.

Tom Crider, President  
Southbury Land Trust