

Please support the Raised Bill no. 70.

I co- chaired the Ashford Plan of Conservation and Development. Our town plan included in its recommendations the linkage of conserved lands such as CT state forests, land trust lands and other conserved lands. Without long term protection for the CT State Forests planning for wildlife corridors, trails, recreation and forest management CT state forests become an insecure part of those potential linkages. Those who would like to add to conserved lands now question the long term viability. The State has encouraged linkages with its Greenways program and acquisition efforts. The ability to trade state lands undermines our faith in the reasonableness of long term planning and the hope the beauty of CT natural landscape will be there in the future. Please support Bill 70.

Studies have shown that State parks and forests bring in an annual revenue of 2 billion and provide 9000 jobs. CT needs to protect its natural landscape to attract those who look for the the quality of life it provides.

Sincerely,  
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