



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### **Testimony in Opposition to SB 946 and in Support of the Community Investment Act Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee March 9, 2015**

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger, Senator Frantz, Representative Davis, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Tami Zawistowski, and I represent the 61<sup>st</sup> District, which includes the towns of Suffield and East Granby, and a portion of the town of Windsor.

I am writing in opposition to SB 946: An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget – specifically the provision which authorizes funds contained in the “community investment account” to be transferred to the General Fund.

The Community Investment Act was signed into law in 2005, and provided for a dedicated fund - the “community investment account” - to fund open space, farmland preservation, historic preservation and affordable housing. The source of funding for the account is a \$40.00 recording fee levied on real estate transactions.

Our state's agricultural heritage, open space and historical landmarks are part of Connecticut's core character. Preserving our land, our natural resources and a viable agriculture economy are vital to keeping the state's roots alive, and important in maintaining and promoting tourism, which in turn stimulates our economy and creates job opportunities. After spending \$27 million to develop the “Still Revolutionary” tourism campaign, we should not divert the type of agricultural and historic preservation funding that is necessary to keep the essential character of our state alive and attractive to visitors.

I am asking the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to consider keeping the community investment fund dedicated to its intended uses and to its very worthy mission.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Representative Tami Zawistowski  
61<sup>st</sup> District – Suffield, East Granby, Windsor