

From: Gordon F. Gibson  
Town: Vernon

Testimony:

The State of Connecticut has a budget problem which Governor Malloy has proposed to solve, at least in part, by transferring money from dedicated funds to the general fund. One of the Governor's proposals is to transfer funds from the Community Investment Act funds to the general fund. The Community Investment Act funds are dedicated to preserving farmland, keeping our farms viable, preserving open space, historic preservation and affordable housing. If we must divert funds from the Community Investment Act program to the general fund, why should we divert current tax revenue to help pay for the Hartford stadium?

At present our food travels an average of 1500 miles from farm to table. The cost of transporting the food is ultimately passed on to the retail consumer in the form of higher prices. The more food we can produce locally, the less it will cost the retail consumer and the fresher it will be. It makes no sense to divert state tax revenue to help pay for the new stadium in Hartford when at the same time we are diverting funds from programs such as the Community Investment Act which improve the quality of life for all residents of Connecticut. I therefore oppose using any state tax revenue to help pay for the Hartford stadium until we can keep the dedicated funds for their intended purposes and not transfer them to the general fund.