

March 15, 2015

Dear members of the GAE Committee,

I am opposed to any section of HB 6998, which would grab portions of publicly owned State Park and State Forest lands and convey them to individual towns. I am particularly concerned by Section 8 - the effort to grab land from the portion of the Centennial State Forest which is located within the town of Fairfield and convey that acreage to the town itself.

Fairfield's stated purpose is to have the land as "Open Space."

However, the Centennial State Forest is already open space in the best sense of the word. So why is Fairfield seeking ownership for open space use when Centennial State Forest already provides quality open space? It makes no sense.

The entire notion of giving up state owned forest lands, state park lands or wildlife management lands is a bad one. We need more such lands, not less.

Sincerely,

Charles T Barnard

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