March 14, 2015

To: Government Administration and
Elections Committee
State Capitol
Hartford, CT

Re: Hearing on HB 6998, the Land Conveyance Act

Dear members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to certain sections of HB 6998, a bill to convey various pieces of state lands to local municipalities.

Specifically, I oppose Section 8 of the Conveyance Act that would convey over 100 acres of the Centennial Watershed Forest to the town of Fairfield for $0. Apparently, DEEP, which owns the land, was never made aware of this proposal, nor was the Aquarion Water Company, which holds conservation easements on this property. This conveyance has been held from public view until the last moment. One hundred acres of open space will be lost to the state and the public.

I also oppose the conveyance of four+ acres of Silver Sands State Park to the town of Milford for "municipal purposes", and again the price is $0. The town of Milford proposes taking four acres of one of the most beautiful state beaches for a parking lot. These conveyances are entirely against the spirit of open debate on very important state open space lands, that will be transferred for no compensation to local entities for development purposes. They should be removed from the bill and specific hearings held on these two items.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Raisbeck
81 Main St.
Groton, CT 06340