

**Gaetano, Carolyn**

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**From:** Janet McAllister <mcallisterjc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:29 AM  
**To:** GAETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB6998 Sec. 3

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to express our opposition to section 3 in HB6998, currently under consideration.

We oppose the State of Connecticut conveying 4+ acres of Silver Sands State Park to the City of Milford for "municipal purpose", which will include parking lots. Silver Sands State Park is a gem in the state park system that has received extensive state taxpayer investment for rehabilitation and restoration. It is a scarce coastal open-space resource that should not be given away to the City.

We recognize that the portions of Silver Sands requested by the town are not directly along the coast, but the park is not large and chipping away at its edges will diminish the integrity and habitat value of this all-too-scarce open land along Long Island Sound. The 3.5 acre section by Nettleton and Service Roads, especially, provides valuable woodland and wetland habitat for songbirds, owls, waterfowl and other wildlife.

The citizens of the State of Connecticut should not be compelled to donate their valuable public lands to the City of Milford for the creation of more parking lots. The City has abundant parking already in the Walnut Beach/Silver Sands area and, as Milford residents, we know that the citizens of Milford already have ample convenient access to the state park.

The City of Milford and its residents have benefited greatly from the City/State partnership that resulted in the boardwalk that spans the town and state beaches, and we are fortunate to reap the benefits of the state's extensive investment in rehabilitation of the ecosystem at Silver Sands on a daily basis. The rest of the state taxpayers should not have their natural resource of Silver Sands State Park diminished to meet highly questionable "municipal needs" of the City.

State Parks along Long Island Sound are scarce; parking lots are not. Long Island Sound does not need more paved surfaces along its shoreline, especially more that are build at the expense of state taxpayer funded park land.

Please vote NO to Section 3 of HB6998, the conveyance of Silver Sands State Park land to the City of Milford.

Respectfully,

Janet McAllister and Tom Morris  
197 Maplewood Ave.  
Milford, CT