

**Testimony Concerning Conveyance Act HB 6998
For Public Hearing March 16, 2015**

My name is Starr Sayres, resident of East Haddam, CT, and I serve on the Board of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, a distinguished conservation organization that has served Connecticut for 120 years.

Concerning Conveyance Act (HB 6998), I wish to voice my strong opposition to both Sections 3 and Section 8. In the case of Silver Sands State Park, it contains one of the most treasured stretches of beach in the State. For the convenience of some, whittling away at the edges of a valued State property may seem like a simple solution, but the repercussions come at a heavy price, namely, erosion of public trust, compromising the integrity of the Park, and reaffirming a precedent that has in recent years seen considerable public opposition.

Regarding Section 8, the Conveyance of over 100 acres of the Centennial Watershed Forest to the Town of Fairfield, this is a land management issue that needs long and thoughtful consideration by vested parties, the DEEP, Aquarion Water Company and the Nature Conservancy. Without meaningful examination by these partners, the pitfalls of this kind of divestiture can be easily overlooked. This is a large piece of property. It should also be noted that it is being proposed for conveyance for nothing in return. Due diligence needs to be given to such a significant proposal. I would ask for a vote against Section 8.

Thank you for your consideration.