

March 16, 2015

Dear Government Administration and Elections Committee Members,

We write to you today to express our concerns regarding 2 sections of proposed Bill HB 6998.

First, Section 3 of the Conveyance Act would convey 4 Plus acres of Silver Sands State Park to the Town Milford for "Municipal Purposes" for the sum of Zero Dollars.

Silver Sands State Park is one of the state's most beautiful beaches, and has been the beneficiary of millions of dollars of rehabilitation work utilizing state funds over the past few years. The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has previously refused the town's request to establish an " Exclusive Parking Area Only for Town Residents ".

Second, Section 8 of the Conveyance Act would convey over 100 acres of the Centennial Watershed Forest to the Town of Fairfield for the sum of Zero Dollars.

DEEP owns this property and the Aquarion Water Company apparently holds the conservation easements on the property. This proposal has been made without the knowledge of either the DEEP, Aquarion Water Company , or The Nature Conservancy who works in partnership with DEEP and Aquarion on the land management of the Centennial Watershed Forest.

The mission of the CT State Park System is to protect and preserve natural treasures and historic properties "For the Benefit of ALL its Citizens".

These proposed sections are Outrageous and Destructive! These properties must be protected in their entirety for now and future generations and must not be simply given away against DEEP's wishes or knowledge for some local pet project that only benefits " The Few" for a Parking Lot...Really ??

We Strongly Urge your vote to be IN OPPOSITION to HB 6998.

Sincerely,  
Chris & Kelly Callahan, Friends of CT State Parks  
Waterford CT