

As an avid outdoor enthusiast, my family and I enjoy utilizing the beautiful open space that remains in Connecticut. We moved here 13 years ago from New Jersey, and since that time have watched Connecticut developers, build on several beautiful open parcels. In my hometown of Glastonbury, several orchards, and woodlands have been built upon and have increased the congestion and stress on the town's infrastructure. However there have been small victories such as land purchases which increased the size of the Meshomasic Forest, as well as other private land trusts that have secured small parcels for future generations. These purchases were made possible by responsible government officials who recognized the long-lasting value of **investing** in open space.

Even in tough economic times, these purchases were strongly supported throughout the community. Citizens recognize the value of open space in terms of protection of nature, clean drinking water, passive recreation, and property values.

Be advised that I strongly OPPOSE the diversion of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act as proposed in HB 6825, the Governor's Deficiency Bill.

Sincerely,

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