

Dear Sirs,

I strongly oppose the immediate and unprecedented sweep of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act (CIA) as proposed in the Governor's Deficiency Bill (Section 5 of HB 6825). Likewise, I strongly oppose the sweep of all CIA funds in 2016 and 2017 as proposed in the Governor's Budget.

Loss of this money from the CIA fund will devastate the DEEP's open space grants program and the DoAG's farmland preservation program. CIA funding has been essential for the preservation of several farms in Woodstock and Thompson, keeping the land in active agriculture and strengthening our local economy. In addition CIA funds have enable the preservation of several key parcels of open space and wildlife habitat in the area. The projects funded by the CIA are of great value to the local community and would not be possible without these funds.

Community Investment Act funding is often used as a match for federal funds as well, so loss of CIA funds will lead to a loss of federal dollars as well. This is bad for our state, our towns, our economy and our environment. Please remove this provision from the Governor's Deficiency Bill and ensure that full Community Investment Act funding is available for the next three years.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this very important matter.

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