

April 20, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

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

The CIA has been instrumental in the preservation of unique and irreplaceable landscapes across Connecticut. The diversion of these funds would negatively impact the character of our state.

The CIA is a dedicated revenue source outside of the budget to provide consistent funding for reinvestment into our communities for open space, farmland/dairy support, historic properties, and affordable housing programs. It should be respected as such.

The CIA has invested over \$133 million for 1,100 projects across all four sectors in 168 Connecticut towns -- and the numbers continue to increase!

The CIA is the only consistent source of funding for the Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA). The proposed sweep of these funds could seriously impact the current grant round and the future of the OSWA program.

CIA investments boost local and state economies (projects have contributed to the viability of the \$873 million outdoor recreation industry and the \$3.5 billion agricultural industry)

CIA investments leverage millions of matching funds (200% in private, federal and local sources invested back into our communities)

CIA = Jobs! (CIA projects have created over 3,000 jobs in affordable housing and historic preservation, and over 28,000 jobs in the agricultural industry)

CIA protects natural resources! Once they are gone, they cannot be replaced!!

**Elimination of CIA funds:**

- Means loss of jobs and loss of private investment in our communities.
- Directly impacts everyone from farm families to those who rely on affordable housing options in our urban areas.
- Will disinvest in amenities that attract people to live, work and visit here.

I urge you to do the right thing and deny this irresponsible proposal.

Sincerely,

Diane Lamb

Burlington, CT