

I OPPOSE the diversion of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act as proposed in HB 6825, the Governor's Deficiency Bill. The money going into this fund was set aside for a specific purpose - to enable towns and organizations to protect open space, preserve farm land, create affordable housing and to protect our history. Once these sites are gone - sold to developers, since towns and preservation organizations can't afford to bid on them, they are lost forever, and every citizen in Connecticut loses except for the builder and the few who are privileged enough to move onto the property - while destroying an important habitat, historically important location or farm...the very image of Connecticut and one of the 2 reasons I live here (the other being our town's schools). This fund is important to so many people in the state, not just protecting land. It protects Connecticut farmers and provides funding for housing projects that protect our most vulnerable citizens including affordable housing and providing help so homeless families can get back on their feet, and helping public housing authorities ensure their properties are up to snuff. This bill is already filling a gap in the capital housing budget. If these funds are removed, then there will be many other problems that will be more expensive for the state.

Please keep the Community Investment Act funds intact - they are being used efficiently to prevent more expensive problems for the State.

Jan Manchester