

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a concerned citizen strongly opposed to section 5 of HB 6825 which would take \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act (CIA). I love the outdoors and the protected open space across the state provides me a place to rejuvenate and get away from the stresses of everyday life. One of my favorite places to go hiking is on the Nipmuck trail in Willington, which passes right through the North Property that was protected through the DEEP open space grant program. Funding for land protection is becoming increasingly rare in CT and raiding the CIA will only make it more difficult for conservation organizations to protect what little open space land remains across the state. In a time when the economy is on the rise and development has begun to pick up again, every ounce of funding to protect open space will be needed if we are to ensure these wonderful resources for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Suhr