

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 2C
300 Capitol Ave.
Hartford CT

Regarding: HB 6825 Sec.5 CIA Reductions: Hearing April 21 2015.

Dear Elected Officials of this Committee:

I am deeply concerned at the proposal to eliminate, reduce or re-allocate funds that have been set aside through the Community Investment Act, funds essential for continued efforts to improve our communities, especially in areas of assistance with open space and natural resource preservation and acquisition.

I am writing as an individual and concerned citizen, but in the last decade I have been increasingly involved with land conservation efforts here in SE CT, the last several years being closely involved with Avalonia Land Conservancy. As a steward in Stonington, I have become fully aware of the great need for stronger support of preservation of open space parcels, watershed protections and threatened habitats.

As competition for public dollars becomes increasingly fierce, land trusts need to rely on the support of our State and funding from sources such as the CIA, to be able to qualify for other private grants and donations to accomplish such acquisitions. Our town's people have consistently regarded open space protection as a high priority in our POCD and without such funding we all lose.

Preserving these open spaces for passive recreation, raises property values, attracts people to our towns, our State, and brings tourists and their income as well.

These funds have already been dedicated. They need to remain as such and not relegated to other areas. To appropriate these funds for purposes that the tax payers did not intend, would, to me be unethical, and a misuse of power and public trust.

Please reconsider and leave the Community Investment Act intact, and funds raised, remain dedicated to protection of many of our unique resources, not the least of which is our precious land, to be protected for our future and the next generations.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Beth Sullivan, (Stonington Town Chairperson and Steward Avalonia Land Conservancy)
76 Deans Mill Rd
Stonington, CT 06378