



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 4, 2015  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

**Raised Senate Bill 347 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE PERCENTAGE OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS THAT MAY BE USED TO PURCHASE OPEN SPACE UNDER THE OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised Senate Bill 347 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE PERCENTAGE OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS THAT MAY BE USED TO PURCHASE OPEN SPACE UNDER THE OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

While DEEP supports broadening the ability of its partners in protecting valuable open space lands, a complete reduction in the match share by buyers (grantees) would ultimately reduce the total dollars available to purchase lands, thereby reducing the acreage of lands protected. Financial participation by our partners, towns, and other donors used as match to state and federal grant dollars both leverages those grant dollars and shows a direct commitment by the community. At the same time, DEEP recognizes that a thirty percent share may be difficult to obtain, particularly for larger, high value properties.

DEEP recommends that, rather than eliminate the match, the committee consider including some minimal level of participation in the purchase whether by donation or direct purchase of at least ten percent of the fair market value.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov)).