

SB-946, Revenue for the Governor's Budget, Section 29

I am appalled by the attempt to sweep the recording fees collected by the municipalities into the General Fund. These funds now provide the revenue for the various Community Investment Account activities, including historic preservation programs, farmland programs, open space, and the like.

The individual municipalities collect the fees and do the work of making the recordings, and then send the money to Hartford. Madison, for example, forwarded \$90,000 in FY 2013-14. In return, we receive an occasional grant which helps restore an historic building, preserve a small piece of open land, etc. We don't receive anything like the money we send up, but we are happy to receive some return. To decimate one of the few sources of help for these desirable projects is deplorable! I urge the Committee to strike Section 29.

OR

As a Plan B, if you feel that you must eliminate the Community Investment Account, then allow the municipalities to keep all of the money collected and let each city/town determine which projects to fund, or to use the funds to provide property tax relief. As an added benefit, perhaps this would allow some overhead reduction in Hartford.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fillmore McPherson
First Selectman
Town of Madison