



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Finance Committee
March 9, 2015
Testimony In Opposition to
SB 946 AAC Revenue Items To Implement The Governor's Budget, Section 29(b)

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

We are well aware of the budget shortfall for the biennium. We know that we cannot fix it by taking small amounts from worthy and important places. This is in fact a very damaging way to solve the problem.

Raiding the Community Investment Act funds in order to close the budget is not good public policy. These dedicated revenues from fees on municipal document recording contribute significantly to our quality of life. They support agriculture/farmland preservation, open space acquisition and preservation, historic preservation, and affordable housing. CIA funds have benefitted almost every town in the state. The CIA's track record for almost a decade has been spectacular.

There are much better structural ways to balance the budget then crippling these small programs which do so much for Connecticut.

We call on the Committee to delete Section 29(b).