

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building (LOB), Room 2E
300 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, Connecticut

Subject: March 9, 2015 review of S.B. 946 – CIA reductions

Dear Elected Officials of the Committee:

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure regarding the proposed treatment by Gov. Malloy of the Community Investment Act funds. This is nothing but pure theft of dedicated funds raised through the \$40 recording fee of land transactions.

The CIA has benefited just about every town in the state. It provided critical funds to a land trust I volunteer for to permanently protect one of the last white cedar swamps of any size as open space in North Stonington. Farms in SE Connecticut have benefited from this funding. The Charles W. Morgan received significant funds allowing the whaling ship to be restored and to make its historical cruise last summer which brought much attention to the State of Connecticut.

The CIA funding provides the only reliable source of funds for the Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. Those funds are used to leverage additional funding from federal, private and local sources. Open space preservation would pretty much stop if the governor's proposed action is allowed to occur.

CIA investments create thousands of jobs in the outdoor recreation, affordable housing, historic preservation and agriculture areas thereby boosting local and state economies by millions of dollars.

Many of the goals of the state, regional and local Plans of Conservation and Development (POCD) rely on this funding. If you allow the governor to sweep these funds into the general fund, how will the POCD goals be obtained?

Please think carefully before you vote for any bill that decimates CIA funding so severely. It is a good program and serves a great number of worthwhile projects and constituents. Programs that are funded by specific fees should be allowed to keep those fees to further the goals originally imagined when the fees were established.

Thank you for your consideration.

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