

Constitutional Amendment bill (S.J. 5) Testimony provided by Dave Rauch of Meriden

Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts on the need to better protect Connecticut's public lands and to better serve the standards of good government by holding this public hearing.

Connecticut's future success requires hard work now and I am happy to see Connecticut's leadership addressing this Constitutional Amendment bill and other important issues.

I am proud that we have a state that many feel is a great place to live, do business and visit. Connecticut's rich natural beauty; generally clean, healthy surroundings and easy access to outdoor recreation are very strong components of our appeal. The CT environment is a key part of what defines life in CT and protecting it is fundamental to keeping CT attractive.

There is much discussion about less expensive states to retire. We plan to retire in CT because it is a nice home. Like any other home, it needs investment and attention to remain a nice place to live.

Fiscal prudence for CT requires that we maintain our strong appeal. And that appeal includes a highly enjoyable great outdoors and protecting public lands is vital.

My pride in CT took a big hit when I learned of attempts to use the Conveyance Act for special interest and selfish purposes last year. The tactics that were employed had all the earmarks of the kind of back room, sneaky politics that the rest of us find so distasteful. This amendment would protect us from actions that detract from the public faith in government and make Connecticut a far less appealing place to live

It is a very important that the General Assembly improve and pass the proposed Constitutional Amendment bill. It is a vital step to protect CT public land and promote good government.

S.J. 5 should also be improved in the following ways:

- S.J. 5 should be more comprehensive to protect lands that have agricultural, conservation, or recreational value
- S.J. 5 should include a requirement for a local public hearing so that those most familiar can testify
- S.J. 5 should be more comprehensive to include the value of those lands being given away as well as the sale of public lands
- S.J. 5 should address the need to have separate bills considered by the General Assembly for each individual conveyance of public lands with agricultural, conservation, or recreational values to avoid bundling

Fiscal prudence for CT requires that we maintain our strong appeal. And that appeal includes a highly enjoyable great outdoors.

Please vote and lobby your colleagues to improve and pass Constitutional Amendment bill (S.J. 5)

Sincerely

Dave Rauch
330 Columbus Ave
Meriden, CT 06451
203-235-3986 DaveRauch203@gmail.com

Cc:

Sen. Bartolomeo
Rep. Santiago
Rep. Sharkey
Rep. Aresimowicz
Sen. Looney
Rep. Klarides
Sen. Duff
Sen. Fasano
Gov. Malloy
Lt Gov. Wyman