

Senate Joint Resolution No.36

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06248-1111

RE: Senate Joint Resolution No.36

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE TO PROTECT CERTAIN PROPERTY HELD OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE FOR CONSERVATION, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

I am John E. Hibbard. I reside at 1072 Gilead Street, Hebron Connecticut and I am submitting the following testimony in support of SJR No. 36, LCO No. 2238 on my own behalf.

I am an advocate for conservation of land and interests in land for public purposes as State Parks, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, State Greenways and other areas administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, (DEEP), for over fifty years as a professional and as a retired citizen.

I am an advocate for the preservation of Agricultural Land at the state level through the Farmland Preservation Program of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

During the fifty year time period noted above, I have served on various advisory boards, and task forces at the state and local level dealing with these matters. I have had the opportunity to counsel landowners on preservation of their land through gifting land and interests in land, and raising funds for public acquisition of land for State Parks, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, Greenways, and Agricultural Land.

The Proposed Amendment to the State Constitution to Protect Certain Property Held or Controlled by the State for Conservation, Recreation, Open Space or Agricultural Proposes provides much needed long term protection for these resources.

SJR No36, LCO No, 2238 offers these protections.

This new level of protection will provide the following:

1. Affirms the objectives of our predecessors who gave lands for the above noted public proposes.
2. Give confidence to persons or entities who are advocates for protection of these resources.
3. Resources that are dedicated for public purposes will not be sold traded or changed in use.

An Amendment to the Constitution of the State as proposed in SGR No. 36, LCO 2238 must contain the following provisions:

1. Public hearings are held on each proposed sale or conveyance at the local level.
2. Adequate compensation for lands of interests being sold or conveyed for the specific purpose of purchasing property or interests of similar purposes.
3. That a Special Act be passed by a two thirds vote of the General Assembly for each sale or conveyance.

I urge the Committee to Support a Proposed Amendment to the State Constitution as outlined in SJR No. 36, LCO No. 2238.

John E. Hibbard
Hebron, CT