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**In Opposition to Section 8 of Raised H.B. No. 5619, AN ACT CONVEYING
CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND AND REQUIRING A STUDY OF CERTAIN
STATE REAL PROPERTY**

*Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 15, 2016*

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in opposition to **Section 8** of Raised H.B. No. 5619, **An Act Conveying Certain Parcels of State Land and Requiring a Study of Certain State Real Property**, which would convey from the CT DEEP to the Town of Groton approximately 63 acres of land near the upper Mystic River formerly owned by the Mystic Oral School.

Uniquely situated and an important habitat for wildlife, this land has precious value as open space and is worthy of continued state protection for the generations of today and tomorrow, that they may enjoy forever its irreplaceable natural beauty. It is notable that in 2010, the Connecticut DEP designated much of the Oral School property as open space in recognition of its special environmental and recreational significance.

I strongly urge the removal of Section 8 from H.B. 5619.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.