

Testimony in Support of S.J. 36

Hello. My name is Kara Murphy and I'm a resident of Guilford, Connecticut. I'm submitting testimony in support of S.J.36 brought forward by the General Administration and Elections Committee.

Thank you to the G.A.E. Committee for bringing this bill forward. I'm grateful this issue is being brought to the attention of the legislature and ultimately Connecticut's citizenry. It's an important issue and a constitutional amendment is necessary. While it seems obvious that lands we believe to be protected should be protected in perpetuity I know that dangerous tools exist, such as the Conveyance Act, which give the General Assembly the ability to sell, trade, and give away public lands to a town, business, or even an individual. A constitutional amendment to protect state lands is crucial to the future of Connecticut's landscape. Without it landowners cannot trust that the property they give to the state is safe (even when a deed restriction is included) which likely prevents important, valuable land from being donated to the state in the first place. Additionally, without this constitutional amendment, fragmentation will occur as ecologically important properties are given away, traded or sold. The potential results of fragmentation are numerous: wildlife habitat loss, loss of access to recreational space, loss of viable farmland, and, of course, the negative ripple effects of all of these to the health of the people of Connecticut.

I am very pleased and appreciative that the G.A.E. Committee had proposed S.J.36 and is holding a hearing. Thank you for working to better protect our state lands for all of us here and now as well as the future residents of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Kara Murphy
Resident of Guilford, Connecticut