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Re: Testimony for S.J. 36

I am concerned about the preservation, maintenance and acquisition of public lands in Connecticut.

I grew up in central Connecticut, lived here for the first 40 years of my life, and then after 30 years living out of state chose to move back in 2012. I missed New England and am thoroughly enjoying many aspects of rediscovering Connecticut.

My husband and I are active outdoors enthusiasts and weekly enjoy going to state parks, walking the Airline Trail, and going to the shoreline. Within the past week we have walked 5-8 miles on the Airline Trail twice and visited the shoreline at Harkness Memorial Park and Old Saybrook. We have lived in other beautiful places (Vermont and Santa Fe, NM) and have traveled the world extensively. Connecticut is where we chose to spend our retirement years.

Connecticut is a special place with many beautiful vistas and natural sites to enjoy. A Constitutional Amendment is necessary to better protect public lands. Yes, S.J. 36 offers some good, but it can be improved. Public hearings are very important; compensation should factor in expenses associated with any transaction, but some intrinsic values cannot be recouped; bundling of bills should not be allowed; finally a higher standard of a 2/3 majority vote may foster more consideration for any conveyance of public lands.

Let's all honor that our predecessors worked hard to preserve these special lands so that current and future generations could enjoy the beauty of Connecticut.

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

RoseMarie Bagioni

