



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Thursday March 3, 2016
Public Safety and Security Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS 234 & 235

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Larson, Representative Dargan; Ranking Members Senator Guglielmo, Representative Zupkus; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Christopher Davis, and I represent the 57th Assembly District, which includes East Windsor and Ellington. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 234 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF A FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY and S.B. 235 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY.

I am appreciative of the concepts contained in both bills before us today. Like so many, I, too, am very thankful for the outstanding work performed by our State Police and want to see them receive the best training available in order to continue to keep us all safe. The Town of East Windsor, however, has voted at a town meeting to actively attempt to stop the relocation of the firearms training facility to the proposed site in Broad Brook. Both of these bills would certainly go a long way in ensuring that the proposed site in East Windsor is not eligible for this relocation. Furthermore, during these increasingly difficult fiscal times for the state, I have heard from many constituents concerned about the potential costs associated with purchasing private land to relocate the facility, and I appreciate the committee's potential desire to have the firearms facility be relocated to existing state property in order to save money for the state.

In regards to Senate Bill 235, I appreciate the committee's potential desire to ensure that any site has significant acreage of open space around it, as the close proximity of the proposed range to homes, schools, churches, cemeteries, and parks is a great concern to the people of East Windsor. I would suggest that perhaps additional acreage of open space be added to the bill's requirements and language that would allow the municipality to then lease the land for farming purposes as a great way to further preserve the open space.

Thank you again to the committee for raising these bills and for the opportunity to testify here today.

