

## **DARK ENTRY FOREST, INCORPORATED**

P O Box 259  
Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754

To: Representative Daniel Fox, Chair; Co-Chairs; Vice-Chairs; Ranking Member, and Honorable Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee

From: Dark Entry Forest, Incorporated; Allen G. Herkimer, III, Natural Resource Manager

**RE: Senate Joint Resolution 39, “RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT REAL PROPERTY HELD OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE”**

February 26, 2017

Dark Entry Forest, Incorporated (DEF) was founded in 1924 by William C. Clarke, MD, and dedicated as a forestry and wildlife preserve, with an emphasis on education. Located in Cornwall Bridge, CT, the majority of the forest's more than 750 acre boundary abuts the state-owned Wyantenock State Forest.

**DEF strongly supports SJR 39 “Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Protect Real Property Held or Controlled by the State”.**

DEF's forested land protects important headwater streams, wetlands, and recharge areas – all critical for maintaining water quality. Combined with Wyantenock State Forest, our local landscapes together provide significant ecosystem services, including a healthy biodiversity of trees/plants/animals through habitat protection and unfragmented land masses, carbon sequestration, recreation, research opportunities, historic preservation, and offers local residents and visitors a real opportunity to connect with the land. Due to climate change, we are now learning that we must preserve lands for resilience: lands that are diverse both above and below ground and connected to other protected lands. Think unfragmented, natural areas with a variety of land formations such as slopes, cliffs, valleys and ravines, and with different soil types. Our topography and soils satisfy all of these newly emerging scientific parameters.

If the state were to ever sell, swap, or in some manner repurpose Wyantenock State Forest, Dark Entry Forest, Inc. and its members will certainly appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony at a public hearing or as written comments as to how such a contraindicated transaction would negatively impact both human and ecological health. We look forward to voting favorably for the Constitutional Amendment when it reaches the ballot box during 2018.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss them in more detail.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allen G. Herkimer, III  
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