

I support HB 6926 for the following reasons:

- 1) Most cities and towns across Connecticut do not have a permanent reliable resource to use in their land conservation efforts.
- 2) This bill would enable, BUT NOT REQUIRE, communities to establish their own source of funding by adopting a local option to impose a conveyance fee of up to 1% on the purchase of residential real estate, if they so choose.
- 3) These funds could be used to steward land currently protected by a local community or to acquire new parcels of open space.
- 4) These funds could be used to match available state and federal grants and to leverage additional funds for open space.
- 5) Since the funds are collected and expended locally, there is no adverse fiscal impact on the state budget.

Our Town of Willington has very limited funds for Open Space and allowing the Town to collect a conveyance fee on the purchase of real estate would increase our Town's capacity to conserve more land for natural resource protection and passive recreational use.

Sincerely,

Kathy Demers,

48 Mason Road

Willington, CT 06279