

Members of the Planning and Development Committee

I am writing to urge you to support passage of HB 6926. This enabling legislation will provide a much needed mechanism for Connecticut communities to promote the acquisition of open space and conservation land at the local level. This legislation would also support the State's efforts to meet its open space goals on a broader scale without impacting on the need to constrain spending at the State level to address the current budget crisis.

Preservation of open space and conservation land is critical to maintaining the high quality of life enjoyed by Connecticut residents. Passage of HB 6926 would allow local communities the flexibility to move forward with preservation of critical areas during a time when State support for these efforts is inadequate to meet the need. Importantly, HB 6926 does not represent a new "Unfunded State Mandate" but would be voluntary and simply provide for greater flexibility for local communities to address their open space needs.

I urge you to support passage, thank you for your attention, and wish you well in your deliberations.

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