

As a resident of Connecticut and the Executive Director of the New Canaan Land Trust, I am writing in support of HB 6926 that would enable towns to impose a 1% conveyance fee on residential real estate transactions.

Giving communities the option to establish their own funding sources for stewardship and acquisition of local open space could go a long way in helping the State achieve its overall goal of 21% of land preserved as open space by the year 2023 ([See 2016 Green Plan](#)). Cities and private groups, such as land trust, are expected to acquiring 11% of that total.

This bill would empower communities to work on their own behalf in support of open space preservation with no adverse fiscal impact to the state budget. Funds raised at the community level could be used to match [Open Space Land Grants](#) provided by the State. DEEP Commission Robert Klee ([link](#)) and Governor Malloy ([link](#)) have both stated that land preservation that protects important natural resources improves the quality of life of residents and ensures our state maintain its natural beauty.

I care about open space in my community and believe we should have a local option to fund open space acquisition and stewardship. Your support of local option legislation would help our community increase the amount of open space it purchases and protects.

Please support HB. 6926.

Thank you,

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