

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my support for HB 6926, a proposal that allows but does not require towns and cities to establish their own source of funding to acquire, preserve and protect open space at the municipal level by adopting a local option to impose a conveyance fee of up to 1% on the purchase of residential real estate. Most cities and towns across Connecticut do not have a permanent reliable resource to use in their land conservation efforts. These funds could be used to steward land currently protected by a local community or to acquire new parcels of open space. Additionally, these funds could be used to match available state and federal grants and to leverage additional funds for open space. Since the funds are collected and expended locally, there is no adverse fiscal impact on the state budget. Preserving the character of our little corner of the world requires creative thinking and this bill is one creative funding option to which towns should have access. Thank you for your consideration.

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