

Dear Folks,

I am writing in support of HB6926 - Enabling a Local Option to Fund Acquisition and Stewardship of Open Space. Most cities and towns across Connecticut do not have a permanent reliable resource to use in their land conservation efforts.

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.

These funds could be used to steward land currently protected by a local community or to acquire new parcels of open space.

These funds could also 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.

Land conservation is important to preserving the character of the Town of Hamden and how having local funds that will help advance the Town of Hamden's conservation efforts is critical!

Sincerely,

Jim

Jim Sirch, Education Coordinator

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