



Roy Zartarian  
Mayor

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 15, 2017

Representative Roland Lemar  
Senator Steve Cassano  
Senator George Logan  
Co-Chairs  
Planning and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Lemar and Senators Cassano and Logan:

As Mayor of Newington I support for House Bill 6926, "An Act Permitting Municipalities to Impose a Buyer's Fee on the Conveyance of Real Property." This legislation would create a local option to purchase and steward open space. This legislation would provide another tool in local communities' tool box to preserve and protect open space in towns and cities across the state at a time when dollars for these projects are scarce.

The proposed legislation is an opt-in proposal, allowing local communities in our state to harness a dedicated and replenishing revenue stream to protect and steward open space properties and parkland. This local source of revenue can also be leveraged with state and federal grants for the purchase of land in local communities. Proceeds from this measure would assist Newington its acquisition and preservation of the largest tract of undeveloped forest land within its borders.

Open space and parks are part of the character of my community and in communities across Connecticut. Beyond the intangible benefits, studies have shown that the proximity and quality of open space have a positive impact on property values. In other words, homeowners see their investment appreciate.

Please empower and enable communities across Connecticut to fund local conservation efforts and preserve the natural beauty and character of our rural, urban and suburban landscape. The land is an important resource that defines that character of our community and will be there for generations. Please support House bill 6926. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roy C. Zartarian

Mayor