



Finance Committee-Public Hearing
Written Testimony of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
**SB 338, An Act Concerning the Use of Community Investment Account Funds for
Combatting Invasive Species**

March 16, 2018

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation opposes SB 338, An Act Concerning the Use of Community Investment Account Funds for Combatting Invasive Species, because it erodes a dedicated fund.

Public Act 228, also known as the Community Investment Act, was passed by the General Assembly in 2005 to address the social and environmental impacts of suburban sprawl on the Connecticut landscape. The legislation, which commanded broad bipartisan support at the Capitol, sought to secure state commitment to the cause of protecting and preserving the quality, character, and desirability of life in Connecticut by increasing funds for the protection of farmland and open space; the preservation of historic sites; the creation of affordable housing programs. These funds come from a \$40 fee levied by town and city clerks for the recording of municipal land use documents.

The Community Investment Act represents the work of a broad and unprecedented grassroots coalition of farmers, environmentalists, historic preservationists, and housing advocates. Since its inception, P.A. 228 has already had a powerful and lasting impact on the cityscape and landscape of Connecticut.

Despite this, the Community Investment Account has been the target of cuts and raids. In recent years, the account has been raided annually to address General Fund budget deficits, threatening the viability of the program. The current bi-annual budget calls for a \$5M cut each year, or \$10M overall. This is already a big hit to absorb. I urge you to protect the integrity of the Community Investment Account by not putting additional strains on it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Montanaro", is written over the typed name.

Jane Montanaro
Co-Director