FOR THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT  
March 5, 2018

SB 252 AA Requiring the Sale of the Former Seaside Regional Center

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

And Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut asks you NOT to move this bill forward. The proposed legislation fast-tracks the disposal of a major piece of the natural heritage of the people of Connecticut, with no provisions for protection of its natural resources. It trades, for short-term gain a valuable, and beautiful property that should be open to the people (and the wildlife) of Connecticut for generations to come.

The protection of water, which is our mission, requires the protection of lands alongside and adjacent to water bodies. In connection with this responsibility Rivers Alliance serves as a member of the State Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board. We and the other volunteer members of the Board assisted in the drafting of the state Green Plan for public open space. We were lucky to have Sen. Mae Flexer as a participant at that time. This bill runs completely counter to state policy for providing residents with open space for recreation and peaceful enjoyment of their shared landscape. Please do not proceed with this reckless plan.

I apologize for not attending this hearing in person. I was looking forward to doing so. But a serious conflict arose.

Thank you for your consideration and care for the environment of Connecticut

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