



SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Eleventh District
New Haven, Hamden & North Haven

State of Connecticut
SENATE

State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
132 Fort Hale Road
New Haven, Connecticut 06512
Home: 203-468-8829
Capitol: 860-240-8600
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov

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Good Morning Senator Cohen, Representative Demicco and members of the Environment Committee

I would like to express my support for two bills on the agenda today, SB 21, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTERS and SB 237, AN ACT DESIGNATING ROCKY TOP AND YORK HILL AS PROTECTED TRAPROCK RIDGES

In PA 14-205, the General Assembly created a task force to consider issues surrounding the humane treatment of animals in municipal shelters. The Task force worked diligently and met on the range of issues involved in ensuring high quality municipal animal shelters. Some members of the task force have become concerned about the adequacy of Connecticut law regarding companion animals and have asked for the creation of a task force to examine this subject. Language creating such a task force is included in HB 6638 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY LAWS CONCERNING COMPANION ANIMALS. I would encourage the committee to pass a bill with similar language.

The town of Hamden includes several traprock ridges which add significant benefit to the environment and quality of life in the town. In the past several years there have been proposals to develop these areas. Fortunately, following public outcry, the developer who had planned to build apartments on the Rocky Top traprock ridge eventually donated the property to the

Hamden Land Conservation Trust which will preserve the land that had been slated for development. Designating Rocky Top and York Hill as a traprock ridges under section 8-1aa of the Connecticut General Statutes would not prevent all development on these ridges; it would, however, allow the town to provide development restrictions in the ridgeline setback area thus protecting the environmental quality of the area.

Thank you for hearing these important bills today.