

Christopher Keevil

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
State of Connecticut
FINtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I am a Board Member of the Woodbridge Land Trust in Woodbridge, CT and am expressing my individual opinion in this letter in alignment with my care for land preservation and open space.

I oppose Section 1 of SB 1137 and Section 5 of SB 1138 both of which would require nonprofits, including land trusts, with "significant" savings accounts, endowments or pension funds to pay into a state "community development account" the equivalent of 25% property tax.

Our land trust provides important conservation of land in the town of Woodbridge. We collect no fees for our services, and we have no paid staff. As Board members we all work as volunteers.

These proposals as listed above would divert resources from our land trust's ability to acquire and manage open spaces and other natural resources that benefit our quality of life and local economy. It would penalize our land trust for our efforts to set aside funds to help secure our organization's long-term viability and to care for our land trust's properties and easements in perpetuity pursuant to best management practices. This proposal would also undermine relationships with donors who want their donations to support land conservation 100% and do not want any of their donated money to be diverted to a state tax.

This proposal would add a financial burden on our organization, threatening our ability to care for land entrusted to us for the benefit of future generations.

Please vote NO on these proposals that would tax land trusts.

Sincerely,

Christopher Keevil
Board member
Woodbridge Land Trust
Woodbridge, Connecticut