

To: Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Date: April 29, 2019

On behalf of our membership, approximately 2,000 strong, the Sleeping Giant Park Association, a friends' group and 501c3 organization, urges you to vote "NO" on Section 1 of SB 1137 and Section 5 of SB 1138. Both are items that would require nonprofits to pay into a state "community development account" the equivalent of a 25% property tax. While a community development fund sounds noble, it diffuses the efforts of a community to improve their own community. It seems far more likely that each community is best able to determine its own needs.

Since 1924 our mission, as an organization, has been to receive, acquire, preserve, develop, and maintain land on and around the Sleeping Giant (now a State Park). The express purpose of our organization has been to transfer any land we acquire to the State of Connecticut for the use and benefit of the public, i.e. to expand the state park. In fact, it was by a land donation of the Association that the Park came into being at all.

Over the years we have solicited and received contributions from interested persons to apply to the purchase of additional land to add to the Park. Through the efforts of our members and contributors, we have expanded the Park considerably since it was founded. Without our diligence, the Park might not exist today or might be considerably smaller in size. Passage of the above referenced sections would limit the impact of contributors' dollars to a cause they hold dear, and might in fact discourage future donations. This would have a detrimental effect on our future efforts.

Please vote NO on these proposals that would tax land trusts and organizations like them.

Sincerely,

Mike Miller, President, Sleeping Giant Park Association  
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