

Senators, I strongly urge you to oppose Section 1 of SB 1137 and Section 5 of SB 1138, which would effectively impose a property tax on nonprofits, such as land trusts. It directs that such organizations must pay a "fee" equal to 25% of the property tax they would pay if they were not exempt, on the condition that they have a "significant" amount of money available. Besides being a problematic taxing of an exempt organization, it would impose a crushing burden on many of the non-profits who have worked hard to acquire funds dedicated to their mission. Speaking as a board member of the East Granby Land Trust, I am alarmed at the prospect of our organization's mission to protect open space being undermined by this "fee".

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