



Guilford Land Conservation Trust
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**STATEMENT OF GUILFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
IN OPPOSITION TO SECTION 1 OF SB 1137 and SECTION 5 OF SB 1138
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 29, 2019**

The Guilford Land Conservation Trust is greatly concerned with the provisions of Section 1 of SB 1137 and Section 5 of SB 1138, both of which would require non-profit land trusts with “significant” savings accounts or endowments to pay a 25% property tax into a State “community development account”.

The GLCT was founded in 1965. Since then we have become one of the most effective, volunteer-run land trusts in Connecticut, protecting over 3,000 acres in Guilford. We currently have 1,600 members and enjoy broad support in our conservation-minded community. The GLCT relies in large part on donations from its members, and Section 1 of SB 1137 and Section 5 of SB 1138 would redirect those resources away from being used to acquire and manage open spaces in Guilford. Donors to the GLCT want their money to go to preserving land in Guilford, not to a State tax.

The GLCT’s mission is to conserve land in perpetuity. This proposal would effectively penalize our organization and threaten our ability to care for land entrusted to us for the benefit of future generations. Please remove Section 1 from SB 1137 and Section 5 from SB 1138 and vote NO on any proposal taxing land trusts.

David C. Grigsby, Esq.
President