

*Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I am the Vice President of the Harwinton Land Trust. I strongly 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 is small in comparison to most but the contribution to our community is huge. We have very limited funds and plan to put them back into our local community . This tax will cripple our ability to continue to serve our local and extended community.*

*This proposal would divert critical 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 (The Land Trust Standards & Practices). This proposal would also undermine relationships with donors who want their donations to support land conservation and not a state tax.*

*This tax would also hurt our ability to serve other community organizations like the Boy and Girl scouts of America, DCF's kids in the middle program etc...*

*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. Thank you for your time and consideration.*

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

*Sincerely,*

Robert Lesniewski, Harwinton Land Trust.