

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Municipal Open Space Funding Bill

Talking Points:

Outline the Problem

- Many cities and towns need a sustainable source of funding for local conservation and stewardship efforts that would not impact the municipal mill rate or require additional bonding.
- Government funding sources for open space are sporadic and unreliable.
- Open space and farmland are being lost, and funding for both acquisition and maintenance of these gems is needed.

Introduce the Solution

- I support the Municipal Open Space Funding Bill, an effort to create a “local option” for towns to acquire, preserve and steward open space and farmland in their communities.
- This bill would enable, but not require, select towns and cities to establish their own dedicated source of conservation funding by adopting a conveyance fee of up to 1% on the purchase of residential real estate (only charged on amounts over \$150,000).
- These funds could be used to fulfill match requirements for state or federal grant programs, acquire new parcels of open space and farmland, and/or maintain lands currently protected by our community.

How the Program would Help Your Town

- Locally raised revenue would allow towns to fund projects and steward land despite an unstable state budget climate.
- Current and future members of your town would enjoy an increased quality of life as protected land is maintained and new land is acquired.
- The proposal would increase property values in your community and attract new residents to (insert name of your city or town).

Make the Ask

- As our municipal CEO, I need you to endorse this proposal and be willing to send a letter to our state legislator requesting their support for enabling legislation that would give our community the option to decide whether or not to take advantage of this funding mechanism.