



GOAL FOR 2017 SESSION

The goal for the 2017 legislative session is to protect the level and integrity of the Community Investment Act Fund, including restoration of full funding for the next fiscal year.

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Enacted in 2005 by the General Assembly to address the social and environmental impacts of sprawl, the Community Investment Act (CIA) is a dedicated revenue source established outside of the General Fund budget to provide additional support for state programs for open space and land acquisition, agriculture and dairy support, historic properties preservation, and affordable housing development.

The CIA is funded through a \$40 surcharge on municipal recording fees and has benefited almost every town in Connecticut. Since its inception, the CIA has funded nearly 1,400 projects statewide, with \$152 million reinvested in Connecticut. (www.communityinvestmentact.com).

Despite the program's success, funding for the Community Investment Act has NOT been protected. In recent years, the CIA has been raided annually to address General Fund budget deficits, threatening the viability of the program. Most recently, the state's 2015 biennial budget included a fifty percent cut to the CIA, due to sunset at the end of the current fiscal year (6/30/17).

For land conservation, the CIA is the only consistent source of funding for the state's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Program which is vital to assisting municipalities, land trusts and water companies with their land conservation efforts.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW?

The State Legislature should continue to fully fund the Community Investment Act as a dedicated and protected fund to invest in our communities, our state and local economies and our quality of life.

For more information, please contact:

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