

Connecticut Delegation Members Call for Protection of Open Space in Simsbury

Today, Senators Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) joined Representatives Chris Murphy (CT-5) and John Larson (CT-1) to call on Congressional leaders to fund a Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grant to protect the Tulmeadow Farm in Simsbury.

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WASHINGTON - Today, Senators Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) joined Representatives Chris Murphy (CT-5) and John Larson (CT-1) to call on Congressional leaders to fund a Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grant to protect the Tulmeadow Farm in Simsbury.

The Forest Legacy Program, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, helps provide funding to protect threatened privately-owned forestlands, meeting up to 75% of a project's total cost. The House included funding supported by Murphy for Tulmeadow Farm's preservation in the federal budgetary process for Fiscal Year 2010, but this important project was excluded from the Senate's version of the bill. While these two versions are being reconciled, Dodd, Lieberman, Larson, and Murphy have asked that the final legislation include funding to protect Tulmeadow Farm.

"As one of Connecticut's oldest farms still in agricultural use, Tulmeadow Farm is a natural resource of considerable cultural, recreational, and ecological value... we would strongly urge you to help preserve this important property so that its natural beauty and ecological diversity can be safeguarded for future generations," they wrote.

Connecticut boasts a stretch of open space from Tulmeadow Farm all the way to the Massachusetts border, and the \$1.45 million FLP grant would help add an additional 73 acres to the 187 already protected by previous permanent protection agreements. Preservation of this land is strongly supported by the community, and the Simsbury Land Trust has committed to raising the additional private funds needed to complete the purchase. The Trust manages and protects over 800 acres, maintaining trails and meadows, and hosting educational and recreational events for residents.

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