



CONNECTICUT
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CAPITOL OFFICE

2021 JUL 13 P 7:29

Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

I hereby return, without my signature, House Bill 6678, *An Act Concerning the Conveyance of a Parcel of State Land in the Town of Wolcott*. The bill would require the Department of Transportation to sell a parcel of property to an individual private business owner for \$6,000 plus the administrative costs of making the conveyance.

This bill comes after negotiations between the private individual, who is leasing the property, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) failed to produce a sales price that the department could reasonably justify to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) or the State Properties Review Board as being in the best interest of Connecticut and its taxpayers. The \$6,000 sales price required by the legislation is less than one quarter of the appraised fair market value for the property. My administration has not been informed of any extenuating circumstance or other justification for turning over a taxpayer asset to a private interest for far less than fair market value. Accordingly, the DOT and OPM both provided testimony opposing this bill as drafted.

For these reasons, I disapprove of House Bill 6678, *An Act Concerning the Conveyance of a Parcel of State Land in the Town of Wolcott*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning House Bill 6678 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont
Governor