

# Government Oversight Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7279

AN ACT CONVEYING A PARCEL OF STATE LAND IN THE TOWN OF

**Title:** BETHEL.

**Vote Date:**

**Vote Action:**

**PH Date:** 5/5/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Allie-Brennan

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill require DAS to convey to the Gayatri Corporation a .4 acre parcel of land in Bethel for \$25,000 plus administrative costs.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner, CT Department of Transportation:**

Garrett Eucalitto submitted testimony in opposition to this legislation because currently, the DOT has custody and control of the land, despite it being listed as the Commissioner of Administrative Services. They also believe that the land should be sold at fair market value established by the average of two appraisals. Additionally, since this proposal entails a sale to a private entity, this could be handled outside of a special act, and doing so could expedite the process.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy for CT, National Audubon Society:**

Robert LaFrance submitted testimony in support of this legislation and requests a reverter clause to the state be included, and that the use of the land be kept to "passive recreation."

**Peter Olson, Land Use, Conservation Counsel:**

Peter Olson submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it will enable the Gayatri Corporation to design a site plan that will minimize disturbance and construction costs and will further economic development through the construction of a new hotel.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Donna Borges, Retired Accountant:**

Donna Borges submitted testimony in opposition of this legislation because this will not ensure good stewardship of tax dollars. She believes the state has no business owning property and that private ownership of the land will save taxpayers millions.

**Reported by: Griffin Olshan, Greg Wolff**

**Date: 5/19/25**