

Dear Rep./Senator _____,

I am writing to ask you to oppose House Bill 60, an unacceptable surplus land bill that has been reintroduced once again. H60 would sweep aside Chapter 7 safeguards -- eliminating community input and rolling back democratic safeguards on the public land disposal process.

By creating a fast-track bureaucratic process, H60 marginalizes community planners, officials and local advocates for open space, affordable housing and sustainable economic development. And it promotes the consumption of scarce public land, including open space, by intensive for-profit development. At a time when the voices of ordinary citizens are far too marginalized in the big decisions affecting us directly, it is essential that we hold on to what few safeguards we have.

Any reforms of the state-land disposal process should do the following:

- Require local reuse committees in order to preserve local participation and a balanced state/local decision-making process.
- Prioritize open space protection, affordable housing & sustainable development by allowing low or no-cost transfers of surplus property to municipalities (or non-profit designees) for such purposes.
- Preserve legislative accountability by requiring a local legislative sponsor and a specific plan, based on the recommendation of the local reuse committee BEFORE a sale is approved.
- Prohibit evictions of profoundly disabled residents in state facilities targeted for surplus.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Your Name
Your Address