

Regarding HB1196 Sec 14

My name is Cheryl Baxley and I am a resident of Higganum. In fact, one of Mr. Rocco's properties borders us on two sides. As lovely as it would be to have state land for our neighbor instead of a potential development, I think this swap is a bad idea for my town and for the entire state. If we swap state land to a private developer it will set a legal precedent that could affect all state land. So far, all state land swaps that I have found were for the public gain (ie: schools, ball fields, etc), not for a for-profit private developer. No matter how wonderful Mr. Rocco's plans may be and no matter how much our town could use the tax revenue, it is not worth it to set this legal precedent. The entire state should be concerned about this.

I believe the majority of Haddam residents aware of this issue are against it. I base this opinion on listening to the people that come through my coffee shop. This land swap is a very hot topic of conversation. If all the senators and representatives of this state really want to serve the majority of their constituents and not just the few that are pushing for this swap, they should find out what their people think about swapping state land to a for-profit developer. I would also encourage all the state senators and representatives to review the DEP's Green Plan concerning land swaps. I would also encourage you to refer to the CT Office of Responsible Growth.

Please do not set this precedent. Please do not vote for this land swap or allow it to be shuffled out of the legislative process and into administrative process. Please check with the constituents of the entire state, as this affects them all. I personally stand to profit if this swap goes through, but I am against it.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Baxley
Higganum, CT