

## **HB1196 – Section 14**

There is very little undeveloped land left on the Connecticut River for the enjoyment of citizens. The seventeen acres purchased by the tax dollars of each CT resident provides home to plants, animals, and wildflowers alike. Some have referred to this land as a “sand pit,” but anyone who takes a moment to see the land for themselves will quickly realize that this is not the case. I was privileged enough to walk around the Clark Creek Wildlife Management Area and was taken aback by the beauty. It offers a diverse landscape completely different, and just as important, as the state forest. If we lose this land to the development of an inn (or whatever the plan is now), it will be a grave loss to CT residents and to the wildlife alike. Instead of building here, people should be encouraged to witness and appreciate the natural beauty we have been given.

Development is not a bad thing, it is foolish to think that so. But something underhanded and corrupt is going on in this situation and I will not stand for it. I am a twenty-year-old student in Boston, but I am a resident of Higganum, CT. It is my passion and goal to bring the importance and beauty of nature back to the eyes of society. I can speak for myself as well as many other young people when I say that we need to take a moment to realize what we are doing to the planet will have repercussions. We cannot continue to greedily take away from the earth simply because we can put some more money in our pockets. There is a deep pain in my heart when I think that there is a possibility of someone being allowed to ravage such pristine and beautiful land for his own interest. The sheer blindness and cruelty it takes to propose such an idea is sickening. The land swap is a selfish and crooked plan and will only be a detriment to the state.

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