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George Schaedler
4 Captains Walk
Clinton, CT 06413

Regarding HB 1196 Sec 14

I recently read the pro's and con's that are surfacing regarding the potential of a land swap of the 17 acre state owned parcel of land that runs along the Connecticut River for a parcel of 84 acres of privately owned land as in a nearby area. From what I have read the land was definitely sold to the state with intent to keep the land as open space to be enjoyed for years to come as a place for people to come and enjoy as open space. Some articles even stated the land was decided to remain as open space. To me intent if known and honoring that is still a pretty good reason not to sell or trade the land off but if it is decided to be open space then to sell it, trade it or otherwise change the intent of that deed is I thought unlawful and certainly unethical.

As I understand it the developer has 84 acres already that they can develop on and that is close to the 17 acres on the river. Seems like that is still good real estate, to have a location so near for recreation, site seeing, where Eagles come to winter, etc. Why run the risk of causing damage to such an ecologically advantageous area. The state should hold on to this site forever for all to enjoy as it was intended. I won't even mention the fact that from the cost perspective the land cost for the 17 acres was around triple that of the 84 acres that the developers intend to trade according to one of the articles I saw.

Anyway that is my opinion – the 17 acres should remain as open space as it was intended when the state purchased the property.

Sincerely,

George Schaedler