

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee--

With regard to Section 14, S.B. No. 1196, which deals with the Haddam land conveyance:

I urge you very strongly to reject the proposed land conveyance/swap in Haddam. As a landowner, I think it would set a dangerous precedent to exchange land that, according to the deed, "should be retained in its natural scenic or open condition as park or public open space." If this conveyance were to take place, it would forever stop people from donating land for conservation or open space. The State of Connecticut has an obligation to its taxpayers to honor its commitments, and when the commitments are on a deed, there is no question.

Aside from this most important reason, there are multiple other reasons why this conveyance should be rejected. To name a few:

1. Once land is developed, it is developed land forever and gone from public access.

2. The disparity between the valuation of the two pieces of land in the conveyance raises huge questions, none of which have been answered.

3. Haddam is in the process of discussing zoning in the Tylerville area, and absolutely nothing should be done until Haddam has had a chance to put a plan together. I have lived in Haddam for more than 30 years, and I would like to see some economic development in Haddam, but not at the expense of breaching the public trust.

4. There are wells in the Tylerville area that are polluted, and there is no way that any development should take place in the area until the water problem is resolved.

Other issues and questions exist, but the bottom line is that this bill should not be approved. There is no reason to change what the committee decided last year.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,  
Heather Zavod