

Dear Chairman, Vice Chairman and Government Administration and Elections Committee members: please have this testimony entered into the official public hearing record of S.B. 1196 Section 14 concerning the Haddam, CT Land Conveyance. I request that it be read aloud during the hearing.

I am opposed to the land conveyance as proposed which would take 17.40 acres of prime river front area open space land and trade it for land in the Higganum section of Haddam. I am a resident of Marlborough, CT and we and many residents from all points in Connecticut and beyond visit the Eagles Landing State Park which appears to border the parcel of land in question. This transaction would set precedence in taking land that was donated with the clear intention of open space for the public to enjoy and place it in the hands of private developers for their own personal financial gain. Future access will be restricted to those who can financially afford it. This goes against the wishes and generosity of the original donor whose intention was that this amazing land, with stunning views of the Connecticut River, be forever available to the people of Connecticut in perpetuity. It calls into question the many and ever increasing donations of open space made across the state that provide residents with access to acres of pristine land for passive recreation, nature trails, scenic vistas and more.

There is no clear development plan in place. You have no reassurance that the development envisioned won't have a negative impact on the Connecticut River, Eagles Landing State Park and the general river valley which many preservation groups have worked so long and hard to preserve and protect.

Please ask yourselves - would you donate land to the State of Connecticut knowing that in the future they could convey, trade or sell it to the highest bidder? Think of all the future land donations that you're impacting today as people realize that there's no guarantee their generous bequest won't live on as the public oasis they intended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

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Proud member of the Marlborough Lake Advisory Commission, Marlborough Economic Development Commission, The Nature Conservancy, The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the Trustees of Reservation, Massachusetts