

**HB1196 Sec 14**

**I am writing today to oppose Sec 14 of HB1196.**

**This section provides for the exchange of 17.4 acres of land from the Clark Creek Wildlife Management Area in Haddam, Ct, with lands from the Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, Inc, or Riverhouse Properties, LLC of which the exchange is supposed to be of equal value. These 17 acres are adjacent to Eagle Landing State Park, and the Valley Railroad State Park.**

**The state purchased these 17 acres in June, 2003 for \$1,350,000. The town of Haddam appraised these 17 acres for \$1,550,000 in October, 2005.**

**There is a deed restriction as follows: "should be retained in its natural scenic or open condition as park or public open space" referring to the intent of the seller.**

**The land being offered by the Goodspeed, in exchange, was obtained from the State of Connecticut, Public Act 226, for \$1.00. The land being offered (87 acres), by the Riverhouse Properties, was purchased in May, 2009 for \$428,000. There is nothing of equal value in this exchange.**

**This proposal was part of HB5520 in 2010. After hearing testimony, it was removed from the conveyance bill. Nothing has changed to make the transaction any more acceptable.**

**I believe the residents of Haddam have made their position very clear. In addition, I believe the transaction as presented would result in an environmental and monetary loss to the State of Connecticut and such a transfer is not in the best interest of the taxpayers.**

**For the above reasons, I urge the Committee not to approve this land transfer proposal.**

**Very truly yours,  
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