

Senator Gayle S. Slossberg
Representative Russell A. Morin
Government, Administration and Elections Committee
Room 2200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
gaemail@cga.ct.gov

re: Proposed Bill 1196

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND."

Dear Senator Slossberg and Representative Morin,

I have been following the "Haddam Land Swap" issue with great interest. I am a resident of Middle Haddam, however, I believe this proposal will be of benefit to the entire region and our state.

From what I know of the situation (and what I have read) from following it very closely, there have been many misstatements concerning the technicalities of the deal itself, along with several misunderstandings concerning which position is the proper one to support.

As a person concerned with the environment, I fully support this proposal. Having the opportunity to preserve 87 acres of pristine forest land with its associated brooks and habitats in exchange for 17 acres of previously developed and underused industrial land is reason enough to support this proposal. With the added (and at this time especially crucial) benefit of creating hundreds of additional permanent jobs, along with increasing tourism through expanded access to the culture of the Opera House, Valley Railroad and the Riverboats for state residents as well as out-of-state visitors, the tax revenue alone stands to increase by millions of dollars. This is a proposal that has the potential to satisfy both environmental as well as economic concerns.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to support and pass this proposed bill for the benefit of our state. Saving 87 acres of pristine forest AND creating permanent jobs for Connecticut is a win-win proposition, politically, environmentally, and economically.

Very Sincerely,

Rev. Charles C. Harmon
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