



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP MILLER**  
**THIRTY SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4037  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8500  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267  
E-MAIL: Philip.Miller@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

I'm a four term First Selectman and previously a landuse commissioner and Land Trust volunteer in Essex. I have experience in open space acquisition around the lower Connecticut River, an area which I now represent, including Haddam.

We know the value of open space to our air and water quality, keeping traffic patterns manageable and conserving viewsheds. I have worked on land donations, which utilize charitable giving benefits, sales of development rights, and even retail sales of land designated for preservation and passive recreation and with rightful future expectation and promise clearly understood and honored in perpetuity.

The proposed land exchange in the Tylerville section of Haddam is proximal to the Goodspeed Bridge, one of the prime public contacts, along with the Chester Ferry to Gillette's Castle route, with the public trust, the Connecticut River itself, championed by the honorable Gateway Commission and positively upheld by me.

This conveyance before you caused me to be initially confused, and there is a strong misrepresentation of this, caught up in slick marketing and a fullcourt press by proponents who seek to base their private development on first having to procure, through you, public land, conveyed to the State and paid for with 1.3 million, by the citizens of Connecticut, for a larger property worth less than half a million.

And while the State property is undeveloped and at present available only as overflow parking to Eagle Landing, where Riverquest operates natural history tours of the lower river, it is clearly been shown to be land intended by the seller to be conservation land in perpetuity.

That the legislature would consider this exchange sends a troubling message to those who would donate such land for this purpose, that yes, you can be generous, whether by donation or fuller value, and the State or other receiving entity may exchange this land at some point in the future depending on if there is the temptation of promoted profiteering enterprises at play.

Meanwhile, while the idea of Tylerville lodging may have merit, there is still unresolved groundwater contamination there, and unresolved zoning issues which need attention. There are street front parcels available for potential lodging and maybe even a splendid new Goodspeed Opera House some day. There are hundreds of Haddam citizens dismayed and feeling slightly disenfranchised because this has not been publicly discussed and only made to look like the work of Senator Daily.

Most importantly, I look at this body as the fair-minded arbiters of preserving conservation designation and intent. Thank you.

Philip Miller, 36<sup>th</sup> District State Representative