



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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SENATOR EILEEN M. DAILY
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March 21, 2011

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and esteemed Members of the Government, Administration, and Elections Committee:

I'm Senator Eileen Daily; I've been representing the residents and Town of Haddam in the General Assembly since 1993. I write to encourage your favorable consideration of Raised Bill 1196, An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land. More specifically, Section 14 of that bill is, I believe, in the best interests of the state, Haddam, and surrounding towns.

In this exchange, if executed, the state would acquire 87.7 acres in the Higganum section of town, contiguous with the Cockaponset State Forest. The DEP would add that parcel to the state forest footprint.

For its part, the state would surrender a 17.4-acre parcel, west of the railroad right-of-way, and essentially encircling a banquet and conference facility called the Riverhouse. The parcel abuts an existing state Department of Transportation facility immediately to the south in the Tylerville section of Haddam.

It must be noted this proposed transaction would not affect the Clark Creek Wildlife Management Area near Eagle Landing State Park on the west bank of the river.

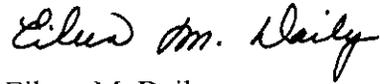
Some opponents have claimed that this transfer would have a chilling effect on donations of state property, this is not likely. DEP has for some time executed property transfers. The public seems to trust DEP to manage the lands of the State.

In my view, the benefit to the state is self-evident in terms of an expanded Cockaponset State Forest. More open space for recreation and more habitat for wildlife also contributes to increased water quality protection for existing wells in the Higganum area.

It cannot be overstated: any and all development in Tylerville would be subject to all local zoning, wetlands, and building regulations, with all those opportunities for public comment and local control.

Again, I urge your approval of this bill and to that end I am very willing to answer any of your follow-up questions. Thank you for your careful deliberation of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen M. Daily".

Eileen M. Daily
State Senator – 33rd District