

March 21, 2011

Karrie-Ann Morris
83 Tater Hill Road
East Haddam, CT

State of Connecticut
Connecticut General Assembly
Government & Elections Committee

RE: HB 1196 Sec.14 Opposed

The Connecticut River is where people from all over come to play and visit and hike and fish and live! This is EVERY ONES land. Why have we come against the contents of this bill once again? This is public trust land – on a purposive state park/or active rail line? Once it is gone to development (which we still have NO IDEA of any real FINAL plan) – it is lost forever.

This particular conveyance of state land involves a land swap that is specifically trading public property for private property. If these properties were of equal value perhaps the trade could very well make some economic sense to the Haddam Selectman and its Planning and Zoning Commission, and those in favor of economic development without full thought given to careful and responsible planning. The Haddam town assessor's office says they are not of equal value. Therefore, there is no economic sense to be made here – period.

Year after year, Senator Daily refuses to listen to her constituents who have become self-educated of this bill. But there are many more townsfolk people today do not even know the scattered details of this plan due to the lack of transparency on this highly debated issue. The clock is ticking while state and local officials want to have this transaction move along as quickly and as quietly as possible – AS TO NOT LET ANY LOCAL OPPOSITION GET IN THE WAY OF THE PLANS OF THE DEVELOPER AND THE SENATOR WHO ENDORSES HIM.

For this chosen developer to take hold of the immediate wealth of the waterfront property – along with the Valley Railroad, and the Goodspeed – seems just a bit insulting to ALL taxpayers of Connecticut. It's no secret that more and more people are cynical of

government, and cynical of elected officials. Why? *BECAUSE IT'S CLEAR HERE AGAIN:*

IT IS ALL IN WHO YOU KNOW, AND HOW DEEP ORGANIZED POCKETS WANT TO BE. IF YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN AFFORD TO HAVE LAND TO SWAP, AND IF YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN AFFORD TO BE A DEVELOPMENT FIRM, AND IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO HIRE PR, AND IF YOU CAN AFFORD THE RIGHT LAW FIRM – THEN YOU TOO MIGHT ACQUIRE A LAND SWAP ALONG THE CONNECTICUT RIVER TO BUILD A HOTEL/THEATER WITH A TRAIN STATION AND A DOCK, PARKING LOT READY TO BE UTILIZED – DON'T FORGET THE THEATER (NON-PROFIT = TAX BREAKS). What a great deal FOR JUST THE RIVERHOUSE - all courtesy of Senator Eileen Daily should HB1196 pass.

I recently wrote to a former state official seeking support in opposition to this HB1196 issue. To my complete disbelief they very sternly warned me not to speak out on this issue. I was told to steer clear of this issue in case I needed a favor from Senator Daily in the future. In addition, now that State Representative Phil Miller had replaced former Rep. Spallone, perhaps I could call on a favor from him now as well.

Forget my previous testimony. Is this the way you folks do things in Hartford? I know of an economic development site with great land swap potential in Essex. A potential train yard - adjacent to state park land - heck, you name the uses for it! How much did a land swap like this one in Haddam cost Mr. Rocco through legislation? Please ask Madam Senator Daily to let me know on that. Perhaps this may be an opportune time to ask to be included in next years land conveyance bill?

Respectfully,
Mrs. Gregory Turner Morris