

We are writing to you today to oppose HB1196 Sec 14. We are the owners of the “real” Goodspeed Station in Haddam, CT. We bought the station 20 years ago and have been operating it as a gift store for the last 18 years. Our store is directly across the street from the 17 acres to be swapped. The developers have proposed to build a train station, gift shops, a theater and a hotel. The plans that appeared in the Middletown Press this week indicate that the new development will be called “Goodspeed Station”. We are not associated with the development nor did we give permission to the developers to use our name. We would rather see the Bald eagles on that property rather than development.

As you may already know, the groundwater in Tylerville is contaminated with TCE. The amount of TCE in our water has changed since the new Dunkin Donuts and Riverhouse were built. Both have wells and use filters but the draw on the groundwater changes the dynamics and we have seen an increase in TCE in our raw water. We fear that increased development (increased drilling new wells) would increase the TCE in our water as well.

The developers are aware of this problem and if this trade takes place, who will be paying for clean water? – this will put a burden on the taxpayers in Haddam.

Perhaps the senator who is behind this bill, should canvas the neighborhood. I am sure she would find that we are more interested in cleaning up the water than more development. She would also find that there are other areas in this neighborhood that are ripe for development. Developing land that was set aside for open space and trading to private entities for their own gain sets a horrible precedent. We certainly would think twice about donating or selling our land to the state if there was no guarantee that it remain so. We urge you to remove Sec 14 from HB 1196.

**Kris and Anne Marie Pszczolkowski
Goodspeed Station
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