

HB1196 – Sec 14

The following is submitted as Public Testimony for any and all Public Hearing or actions on the "Haddam Land Swap" issue and Legislation

Statement of Robert and Carole Waz in Opposition to "Haddam Land Swap"

This is to voice our opposition to the Haddam Land Swap on the following grounds;

*The sheer price inequity of the parcels is a big red flag to us: \$450,000 vs. \$1.35MM. How can this be justified? These lands are NOT of equal value monetarily or in any other measure of worth. And Haddam does not need any more State Forest - we are flush with trees thank you.

*We do not believe that State property conveyances should be allowed where the the purpose is for private entities to profit. This is land owned by all of us in CT, not just some special interests in Haddam.

*It does not seem proper for elected officials to act as a go-between for developers.

*This precedent would discourage future land donations to the State. We do not believe it is the intent of any public land donors to have their land used for private development. This is totally contrary to the intended concept of dedicating land for open space and conservation.

*Public undeveloped land near the River is much more valuable than interior forests to maintain the rural and pristine character of the both the Town and River.

*The hidden costs of developing our town are simply unacceptable to many of us taxpayers. We do not want sewers, water works, more traffic, police and other additional costly bureaucratic government services.

*The suggestion of State Senator Eileen Daily that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection would choose to bypass the legislature and execute the transfer administratively is contrary to the tenets of open and transparent government and is quite simply **outrageous**. If this policy is currently legal legislation is needed to change it - especially when the transfer is not between public government entities. It seems to us that these issues of transparency and due process were part of the reason for the public outcry when the same land swap was attempted via a last minute, almost surreptitious process last year.

*It seems to us that the public has spoken loud and clear on this issue when it was raised last year via an almost unprecedented public outcry culminating in a veto of the bill by Governor Rell. What about that message is unclear? The (Eagle Landing Area) 17 Acre Tylerville CTDEP owned parcel / Rocco property parcel swap is simply not in best interest of us, the town of Haddam or the State of Connecticut.

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