

I am opposed to the proposed land transfer (HB 1196 - Section 14) because I believe this land should be used for the purpose we taxpayers paid \$1,350,000 to purchase it in 2003 – open space.

If it is determined that the land will nonetheless be developed, the process needs to be carried out in a sophisticated and above-board manner. This would involve all interested developers having an opportunity to submit proposals for the land and make competitive bids.

As you are undoubtedly aware, there have been many charges of improper influence and 'back room' deals that have tainted this process so far. Why should some well-connected local group get an inside deal on 'our' land?

Given the ugly reputation that surrounds this proposed land swap the state should take the high road and appoint a special commission (one shielded from political influence) to insure that the state obtains the highest price for the property and that it is developed responsibly in terms of protecting the environment, stimulating job development, and providing access to the public for enjoyment. Due consideration should also be given to the nightmarish traffic problems on Bridge Road in warm weather when the swing bridge periodically opens for boat traffic.

In conclusion, if the development process proceeds, it must move forward in a more coherent and openly honest manner than it has so far. The interests of the people of Connecticut must be protected.

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