

I read the latest on this subject in the Friday, March 18 *Hartford Courant* and cannot attend the Monday hearing. I would like to express my strong feeling that this land swap should NOT take place. Despite Eileen Daily's relentless push to see this exchange happen, it does not make any sense to give up prime riverfront acreage that was purchased with taxpayers' dollars for conservation purposes. How empty of meaning is the designation "state conservation land" if these 17 acres can be relinquished to a restaurant and banquet facility for yet another superfluous small hotel or inn that will no doubt include paved parking and restricted access and views.

I have no idea what agenda Sen. Eileen Daily is following, but obviously it is not what her constituents want or need. The Connecticut River Gateway Commission is against the proposed swap as is our newly elected state Rep. Phil Miller. Trading public land for private development is the antithesis of all the conservation efforts, both private and state, to preserve open land, especially along the river, and not see it developed for the exclusive use, and profit, of a privileged few. Please do not let this swap happen and set a most unfortunate precedent.

Thank you for your consideration.

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