



CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Protecting the Connecticut River Since 1952

15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301-3511 (413) 772-2090

October 21, 2005

Office of the Attorney General
55 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Blumenthal:

I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) concerning the Harlo Haagenson Nature Preserve in East Haddam. This property is of particular interest to us for its proximity to the confluence of the Salmon and Connecticut Rivers and its value as publicly accessible open space. As you know, CRWC is a nonprofit environmental advocate for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the Connecticut River and its watershed.

CRWC appreciates your action in staying the proposed sale by Connecticut Audubon until investigations can be completed. While we understand that nonprofit groups often must make difficult choices to prioritize their efforts and property holdings we believe strongly that a public sale should not be allowed. We believe it would compromise the ecological integrity of this property which currently has significant conservation importance and deserves protection. We have encouraged Connecticut Audubon directly to be a leader in this situation and help preserve the integrity of all Connecticut conservation organizations. CRWC stands together with Friends of Haagenson Preserve, other organizations and concerned individuals in support of a transfer to the local East Haddam Land Trust rather than a public sale which could result in private development and little or no conservation of the site.

Thank you for contacting us to provide additional input that we may have regarding background on the donor's intent for conservation of the property. While our initial inquiries have not revealed anything of interest to you, we will continue to comb through our files and alert you should we discover any pertinent information.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Reiff Gwyther
Executive Director