



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1606

RAEANNE V. CURTIS

Commissioner

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Congdon
First Selectman
Town of Preston
389 Route 2
Preston, Connecticut 06365-8830

BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
AND REGULAR MAIL

Re: Purchase and Sale Agreement entered into between the Town of Preston (the "Town") and the State of Connecticut, acting by its Department of Public Works (the "State")

Dear First Selectman Congdon:

We are sorry that you are personally upset with the State's intent to close the above-mentioned transaction on or before February 27, 2009, but we disagree with, and must respond to, your characterization of the State's position and its proposed course of action in connection with this property. We believe that the Town is not being asked to deal with a new issue over the course of the next seven weeks; rather, we are coming up on five years that the same issue has been pending for the Town. This issue is whether the Town of Preston wants to buy 419 acres of real property "as is" for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) when all conditions on the site are known. The issue is not whether the agreement should be extended until the Town has a developer for the site with the State remaining obligated to pay the management and security costs for the property.

The matter has dragged on unconscionably to resolve the issue, and the almost five years invested in this matter is long enough. (Let it be noted that we confirmed that the Office of the Attorney General based its recent letter on the agreement with the City of Norwich – mistakenly applied to the Town of Preston). During this period of time, the State has incurred costs and spent countless hours of staff time to assist in, and prepare for, this transaction. You were informed back in July, 2008, that the agreement would not be extended. The Town has already conducted two referenda on the subject and, while you must do one more, the voters of the Town are well-educated on the issue. Providing seven weeks to do this and, if approved, proceeding to closing, is reasonable.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Raeanne V. Curtis in cursive.

Raeanne V. Curtis
Commissioner, DPW

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert L. Genuario in cursive.

Robert L. Genuario
Secretary, Office of Policy & Management