

Oswegatchie Hills Legal Update 9/8/18

In the early spring, the Town of East Lyme argued the first case, concerning the amount of sewer capacity to be allocated to Landmark Development, before the Appellate Court. **Connecticut Fund for the Environment** submitted a brief on behalf of **Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve** and **Save the River-Save the Hills**. They argued that the Town of East Lyme has a limited amount of sewer capacity and should not be forced to allocate a huge portion of its remaining sewer capacity to develop an environmentally sensitive area that has repeatedly been identified for conservation.

Unfortunately, last week the appellate court ruled against us and found the commission had to grant sufficient capacity for the project to proceed, despite the town's sewer constraints and the environmental issues.

**** We strongly disagree with this opinion and will be joining East Lyme in asking the Supreme Court to reverse it! East Lyme should not be required to donate an extraordinarily large portion of its highly constrained sewage capacity to an environmentally destructive project that would destroy the Oswegatchie Hills. *****

<https://www.theday.com/policefirecourts/20180906/appellate-court-rules-against-east-lyme-in-sewage-capacity-case>

Here's what the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition leadership had to say about the decision:

*"This is an environmentally destructive project and should never be allowed to go forward," said **Roger Reynolds, Connecticut Fund for the Environment**. "We are discussing the matter with East Lyme and reviewing our legal options."*

*"East Lyme residents and anyone who's visit the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve know how special this land is. We intend to keep building up the grassroots power of the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition and pursuing every option to keep this beautiful, rocky forestland wild and make it available for all to enjoy," said **Chris Cryder, land campaign manager, Connecticut Fund for the Environment**.*

*"This is a setback for the cause of protecting the last mile of coastal fragile forest and Niantic River, but as we have demonstrated for over 16 years, we are in it for the long run and we are not going to be deterred by one battle loss and a plan that is very much detrimental to the environment," said **Greg Decker, Friends of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve president and chief steward**.*

*"This is an outrageous loss. It flies in the face of the spirit of the Home Rule Act. We believe strongly that this would be a nail in the coffin in the Niantic River. We have fought too long and hard to let this nasty setback slow us down," said **Fred Grimsey, president and founder of Save the River-Save the Hills**.*