

✓ XC: PC 1/5/05



Exhibit #136

## Connecticut Fund for the Environment

January 3, 2005

Planning Commission  
Town of Old Saybrook  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Dear Chairman McIntyre and members of the Old Saybrook Planning Commission,

A central issue to be decided by the Commission is whether a less ecologically damaging open space development exists as an alternative to the proposed development. As part of the summation of its case on January 5, Connecticut Fund for the Environment will be making a visual presentation demonstrating the extent of natural resource damage as well as a feasible and prudent alternative to the applicant's proposal.

The Commission need not face a Hobson's choice between an ecologically devastating conventional subdivision and an ecologically devastating open space subdivision. The Commission has the opportunity and the authority to require the applicant to propose a *true* open space development, one that fulfills the objectives of the town's open space regulations by preserving significant amounts of unfragmented natural habitat and natural resources on the site. Our presentation will demonstrate what one such development might look like.

We anticipate that the presentation to the Commission will take approximately 45 minutes to one hour.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles J. Rothenberger