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April 27, 2018

Dennis Finnerty, Chairman  
Southampton Town Planning Board  
Town of Southampton Town Hall  
116 Hampton Road  
Southampton, New York 11968

**RE: Sag Harbor Village Impound Area – Vicinity of Long Pond Greenbelt  
STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION**

Dear Chairman Finnerty and Members of the Town Planning Board,

It has recently come to our attention that the Village of Sag Harbor may be considering a proposal to create a paved municipal impound area on a parcel owned by the village that is located in the Long Pond Greenbelt. We object to such a proposal because of its lack of consistency with Town's overarching conservation objectives for the R-200 zone, and its potential to further degrade and industrialize the fragile environmental resources that characterize the Long Pond Greenbelt.

As you know, efforts to preserve the Long Pond Greenbelt date back to the late 1960's. Since that time, substantial work has been done by countless individuals and numerous community based organizations like ours, Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, and the South Fork Natural History Society (just to name a few), all in an effort to protect, restore and preserve this unique natural feature and the numerous public and environmental values it provides. Moreover, the area has been the subject of substantial public and private conservation investment by Southampton Town and the Nature Conservancy for the sole purpose of avoiding any intensive land use development in this important natural area.

Specifically, the Greenbelt has long been recognized for its fragile environmental features, its valuable water recharge characteristics, and its rare and vulnerable coastal plain pond shore community. For these reasons, the Town has rightly placed this area in its most stringent, low density development zoning district (CR-200). The allowance for a vehicle impoundment in such an area is in direct conflict with the land and water conservation goals that underlie the CR-200 zone.

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The environmental values of the Long Pond Greenbelt and its surroundings have also been recognized by New York State (by designating the areas as part of a Special Groundwater Protection Area), Suffolk County (by designating the Greenbelt as a Critical Environmental Area) and by the Town of Southampton (by designated the greenbelt as part of its Aquifer Protection Overlay District, Critical Environmental Area).

Although the parcel has been partially cleared in the past, the vast majority of its environmental values remain intact and should be protected. The site also serves as an important transitional buffer between development at the nearby recycling center and the completely undeveloped lands to the north, south and east of the subject property.

As a result, we do not believe the proposed action should be permitted on this property because of the site's protective zoning, documented environmental significance, and its value within the larger context of the overall preservation plan for the Long Pond Greenbelt.

In our view, this municipally held parcel is best preserved as part of the Long Pond Greenbelt nature preserve. It would be our hope that the interest generated by this current proposal could serve as a catalyst to further engage the Town, Village and Greenbelt stakeholders in finding a way to commit this property to permanent preservation and restoration, while working with the Village to consider what other options might exist to meet its impoundment needs for the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to our concerns. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Robert S. DeLuca  
President

cc: Sag Harbor Village Board