



CITY OF RYE

JOSEPH A. SACK
MAYOR

June 20, 2017

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Re: S.6590/A.8183

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to urge you to veto the above bill, which was apparently passed last week by the State Senate and Assembly.

The bill seeks to sell a parcel of land in the City of Rye owned by the New York State Thruway Authority ("NYSTA") to the Rye Country Day School ("RCDS"), a private school in the City of Rye.

Our Assemblyman, Steve Otis, recently approached me and my colleagues on the Rye City Council, seeking to have the Council approve a home rule resolution, supporting the sale by the NYSTA to RCDS. The Council declined to do so. In fact, we indicated that the City of Rye would potentially like to purchase the parcel, which has been offered for sale to the City of Rye by the NYSTA.

We were therefore quite surprised, to say the least, to discover that Assemblyman Otis had pushed the bill through the Assembly anyway. It also seems that Assemblyman Otis solicited a State Senator from elsewhere in the state to sponsor the bill. The bill was not sponsored by George Latimer, our New York State Senator.

None of this was heretofore known by the City of Rye; Assemblyman Otis did not advise us this was happening. In fact, in good faith, the City of Rye met with RCDS as recently as this week, to discuss mutually beneficial options for the potential disposition of the parcel. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to us, the bill had already been previously approved by both houses of the state legislature. I would hate to know that either RCDS or Assemblyman Otis allowed this meeting to take place while withholding that information from us.

Today, we learned about these developments only through good chance.

Governor, I am now writing to you to respectfully request that you do not sign this bill into law. At best, the actions of Assemblyman Otis were premature. At worst, they represented a behind-the-back attempt to steer the parcel to RCDS without our knowledge and against our wishes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Joseph A. Sack
Mayor of the City of Rye

Cc: Hon. Steve Otis
Hon. George Latimer
Mr. Scott Nelson, RCDS
Mr. Rick Matters, NYSTA
Rye City Council