

Open space merits being our highest priority

Like Beverly Barber of Milford ["Writer had it right: the surplus is ours", Letters, *Connecticut Post*, Jan. 11], I too cannot understand why it was so easy for our lawmakers and state agency commissioners to grant an electric rate increase.

Did anybody else notice that as soon as the increase was granted, UI gave a salary increase to its executives, who are already earning about a million dollars a year? If they would cut back on these exorbitant salaries they wouldn't need a rate increase.

Barber worries about what our state politicians are spending "our" surplus on. Realistically, there is no surplus. Politicians through the years

have borrowed enough money so they could call it a surplus to make themselves look good. There cannot be any surplus as long as the state is in debt.

In any case, I must take exception to Barber's insinuation that there are "other priorities" than preserving open space. In spite of all our efforts to limit the emission of greenhouse gases, the ozone layer continues to get thinner, and the ozone hole continues to get bigger. Most scientists agree that limiting our pollution will only delay the inevitable inability of our planet to sustain life as we know it. These scientists report that the only way to solve the global warming

problem is to preserve and restore open space. Some have even reported that we may have as little as 50 years left. Recent studies suggest that we might not even have that much time if we don't immediately start doing something to save ourselves.

What are we waiting for? The Earth loses about 20 percent of its open space every year. When are we going to restore some of it? I have never heard of anybody clearing out buildings to restore open space. Yet this is what we must do. Now!

Ralph Cennamo in his Your Voice column ["Bridgeport citizens must have input on city development plans", *Post*, Jan. 14] comments about there being

no plans for Pleasure Beach or Remington Woods. The only "plan" should be to clean them up and let nature have them back. They are the perfect places to begin open space restoration efforts because the process has already begun in these two very large parcels of land.

Saving the planet for future generations has got to be the highest priority. If we don't protect and restore enough open space fast enough, today's young children might not live to enjoy anything else we do. What could possibly be a higher priority than that?

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