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Letter to the Editor

**An Open Letter to Kevin Green
(RTM District 9)**

We are mothers of Westport children and we live in your RTM District. We were confused and disappointed by the recent commentary, "A Solution for the Y and Westport," which you coauthored with nine other RTM members.

You and your colleagues signed your opinion piece as members of the Representative Town Meeting. Does this mean that you are making an official proposal? Have you taken a vote as RTM members? It doesn't matter, for – although you were elected to represent our district – you most certainly do not represent our views when it comes to the future of the Westport Weston Family Y.

Some of us are lawyers, which is why we are particularly concerned that you and your RTM colleagues have publicly encouraged the P&Z commissioners to "apply tough love" and deny the Family Y's application. You claim that such a denial will force the Family Y to "work with local leaders in finding a solution that fits with contemporary planning theory" at Baron's South. But the P&Z commissioners cannot deny the Y's application because they prefer a different site, or because the application fails to fit with "contemporary planning theory." The commissioners – who are constrained by regulation and case law – must judge the Family Y's application on its merits.

You are a new member of the RTM and we don't know where you were in the late 1990s, when the Family Y proposed relocating to Baron's South, but you should know the Y's proposal was roundly turned down. After eight months of study, the Baron's South Planning Committee – which First Selectman Diane Goss Farrell created soon after the town bought the Baron's property – voted 7-1, with one abstention, against the Family Y. Public opinion was solidly against building a new Y on the Baron's property. Any new plan will be opposed because the political climate hasn't changed since 1999. Indeed, First Selectman Gordon Joseloff has continued his predecessor's opposition to using town land for a new Family Y.

You said that the Westport Center for Senior Activities "has been so successful that it already is slated for expansion – with a request for a pool of its own." However, the Center is not expanding nor building a pool, according to its Policy and Planning Board.

Rather than rebut the other points of your "solution," we encourage you to review the Mahackeno plans, which have been presented to the P&Z Commission. We also urge you to listen to your constituents – and ask us what we want for our children – instead of jumping on the anti-Y bandwagon, which is being driven by some of your RTM colleagues.

Jeanne Bowles
Peggy Mevs
Maura Mula
Marcy Rappaport
Jamie Schachter
Sharon Seymour
Adrienne Williams
Westport