

**From:** Rick Smilow  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:36 PM  
**To:** Bhardwaj, Priti S.  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** SAVE Westport's Historic 1884 Bridge

6-15-16

Dear Ms. Bhardwaj:

I'm writing to voice my and my wife's support for keeping the historic Saugatuck swing bridge as it is. It's a functional, living example of engineering / manufacturing history from 1884.

Replacing it with a higher, and much larger structure would destroy the character of my neighborhood, and a big section of Westport.

It's my understanding that there are no tangible issues with safety and the bridge.... Only theoretical issues. I believe the fact is....accidents DON'T happen there!

We also object to the idea that a new bridge would help / spur commercial development. That is something Westport doesn't need, and if one or two commercial interests are calling for it, their self serving perspective shouldn't trump the greater good.

Lastly, there is history and preservation to consider. The 286 ft. Naugatuck River Swing Bridge is thought to be America's OLDEST active pin-connected swing truss highway bridge. I don't know about you, but I think once a man-made structure survives and reaches a certain age, it's fascinating and smart to preserve....make as few changes as possible.

I'd characterize this as a situation where "Bigger is NOT better"!

Regards,

Rick & Debi Smilow