



The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

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February 9, 2009

Mr. Chairman and
Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to hear Raised Bill No. 5108
AN ACT PRESERVING CERTAIN HORSE TRAILS

My name is Diane Ciano, 660 Greystone Road, Plymouth, CT. I am speaking on behalf of the CT Horse Council (CHC) as its Trails Chairperson.

The CHC is in support of this bill as it will help to recognize and preserve the horse's historic use of trails in the state.

Through the years we have seen many of these trails on this list developed through state and Federal funds. Many towns that receive such funding, decide what uses will be allowed and the type of surface to be put down without regard to past usage which in many cases exclude historic usage of horse trails. HB 5108 would help prevent this problem.

The current list on this bill includes Rails to Trails, Greenways, Trails and Open Space that have been already established (some of which have provided a multi use natural surface, while others have been paved). These all have historic equestrian use. Others on the list are proposed projects or projects in progress. The list also includes public town lands as well as state land.

This bill will help to provide equestrians with a "tool" to encourage Open Space Lands and Trails & Greenways planners to include equestrian use in future projects.

As proud owners of our prized possessions, equestrians appreciate the land and trails that provide beauty and peace to our lives. We are proud to be part our nation's historic traditions and are willing to serve the community in helping to preserve trails and open space for our future generations.

Please support and Co-sponsor HB 5108 AN ACT PRESERVING CERTAIN HORSE TRAILS IN CONNECTICUT.

Thank you,

Diane Ciano
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