



The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
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March 10, 2010

Transportation Committee
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 2300 LOB
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony for Public Hearing
Wednesday March 10, 2010

Re: HB 5457 AN ACT ENHANCING PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Diane Ciano. I am offering this testimony today on behalf of the Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. We would like to offer our **SUPPORT for Bill 5457 the ENHANCEMENT OF PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY.**

As the Trails Chairperson for CHC and co-supervisor of our Volunteer Horse Patrol Program, we are pleased that this is a step in the right direction to keep trail users safe on all public ways.

We thank the writers of this bill for their foresight to include equestrians riding or driving on public ways in which the definition includes multipurpose trails and that they also included people operating or riding on agricultural equipment.

Unfortunately there have been many reported incidents of operators of motorized vehicles on roads and trails who intentionally "spook" a horse either by passing by at a fast rate of speed, too close to the animal, blowing their horns, or revving up their engines on roads and trails that have caused riders to fall from their horses who react to loud, quick and close encounters.

The perception that there is little or no consequences for negligent or intentional actions causing an accident can be addressed by this legislation, and we hope this committee will vote in support of HB 5457.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane Ciano
CHC Trails Chairperson
CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor