

March 1, 2010

To: Senator Eric Coleman, Co-Chairman
Representative Brendan Sharkey, Co-Chairman
Honorable Members of the Planning & Development Committee
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **S.B. No. 227 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE
OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES.**

As a member of the Peter's Rock Association in North Haven, CT, I have been involved not only as a board member and hiker, but as a volunteer as well. Many hours have been dedicated to building and marking trails and maintaining those trails for the enjoyment and safety of hikers. As well as being a respite for hikers, the 220-acre park and open space is home to numerous species of wildlife and birds.

It is very discouraging to see those very trails destroyed by illegal ATV use. ATVs have dug large ruts in the trails, sometimes several feet deep. These ruts are receptacles for rainwater and snow melt and prohibit safe trail walking. Numerous side trails have been made by these vehicles, often making it difficult for hikers unfamiliar with the trail system, to navigate through the park.

Early one Sunday morning my husband and I hiked to the beautiful summit. It was a peaceful and uplifting hike to the top and the sounds and sights of birds was abundant. Unfortunately, the hike down was less than pleasant. The sound of several ATVs racing through the park disturbed the quiet and the sound of the birds disappeared. The park no longer belonged to the hiker or the wildlife and I was anxious to quickly make my way out of the park. ATVs have been known to speed by hikers. One encounter left me frozen in my tracks, as I could not detect which direction the sound of the ATV was coming from until it was upon me. The ATV suddenly left the trail and swerved around me.

The hikers and volunteers are no match for the powerful ATVs, which are irresponsibly destroying plant life and well as trails. Often youthful riders drive these vehicles and it is only a matter of time before there is a dreadful accident. Please do your part as legislators and help us fulfill our promise of protecting and maintaining our park as well as other open spaces in our state.

Thank you,

Ann White Lombardi, Northford, CT
Director of the Peter's Rock Association, North Haven, CT 06473