Testimony from Vernyce McDonald:
Environment Committee Public Hearing, 1/31/11

In Support of Access ... And the Greater Good

Connecticut has been blessed by scenic venues that offer not only opportunity for physical exercise, but the opportunity for emotional and spiritual release. We have seen in recent days and months where stresses and pressures have had an adverse effect on individuals and communities. I do not propose that a simple walk in the park will cure all that ails, but sometimes a walk can give us a breather to get proper perspective on an issue. In a down economy, escalating fuel prices and budgets which have overstretched the limit, a breath of fresh air may just clear the mind...if only for a moment.

Many around the state have taken an active interest in their health, employing simple changes that require no financial commitment but personal effort and dedication to a healthier body, soul and mind. Free and open access to these spaces is critical to all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. The healthier we are as a people, the more we will be able to contribute to the positive gains in a myriad of areas throughout the state.

We, the citizens of this state and of this country are better than recent event have painted us to be. We, rather you as our legislators, have the opportunity to make a contribution to the health and welfare of our state and country by continuing to provide access to our open spaces and scenic havens.

I understand that the there needs to be protection for landowners as individuals traverse their properties. I do believe that this legislation will provide such protection while preserving citizen privilege to enjoy the great outdoors.

There is a cause and effect to everything. Let's get behind this cause and effect change for the better for families, communities, the state and the nation at large. I trust that this is an investment, on behalf of the citizens of the state of Connecticut that you as our legislators consider more than worthwhile and are willing to make

Positive change can positively change things. Would you be an advocate for us?

Vernyce McDonald
Connecticut Resident