

Written testimony from *Andrew May 35 Owen St Hartford, CT. 06105.*; in favor of passage of H.B. 6557, "An Act Concerning Liability for the Recreational Use of Lands."

Good Morning, I hope this correspondence finds you all doing well as you do the good work of honorably serving the people of Connecticut to the best of your ability. I write this testimony today as a volunteer of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC)-. An organization with over 8,000 members in Connecticut. As the Northeast's premier outdoor recreation group, we love to hike, paddle, bike, and run in pristine wilderness areas throughout the Region; yet, we also need access to local areas to get in shape, refresh our spirits, practice our passion, and, most importantly, introduce young people to the wonder and rejuvenating effect that the outdoors provide.

According to the *CDC*, daily participation in school physical education among adolescents dropped 14 percent over the last 13 years-from 42% in 1991 to 28% in 2003. In addition, less than one-third (28%) of high school students meet currently recommended levels of physical activity. Not only as an organization but also as a society we cannot afford to do anything to limit access to outdoor activity.

This legislation does not give municipalities blanket immunity from negligence; it does offer them the same protections rightfully extended to state and private land owners. This legislation, therefore, has the potential to help municipal entities, help environmental groups, help families, and help children. There are always unintended consequences but I cannot foresee any downside occurring from passage of this common sense legislation.