



## **Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.**

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### **TESTIMONY TO THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE Monday April 4, 2011**

The Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc (CACIWC) is pleased to submit testimony today on the following bill:  
**HB 6557 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR THE RECREATIONAL USE OF LANDS**

CACIWC appreciates the Committee's decision to hold a public hearing today on this bill and recognizes the extreme challenges facing the Connecticut General Assembly in their attempts to respond appropriately to the serious economic crisis before us. CACIWC strongly supports this bill's goal of harmonizing recreational liability protection to all of Connecticut's governmental entities. As part of its mission, CACIWC works to support its member conservation and inland wetland commissions in their efforts to preserve important Connecticut habitats and help sustain the esthetic natural beauty of our great state.

However, increasing concern over municipal recreational liability exposure and associated costs has inhibited efforts of these local commissions and their staff to acquire and manage forest lands and other open space parcels and to establish and maintain trail systems for bicycling, birding, hiking, and jogging. CACIWC believes that the continuing efforts of these municipal agencies, commissions, and staff to preserve local open space parcels are crucial to sustaining Connecticut's natural habitats and resources, scenic landscapes, and fragile ecosystems. History has shown that the loss of these spaces, and the recreational opportunities that they provide, has been costly in terms of our economic, environmental, and human health. CACIWC, therefore, urges the Judiciary Committee to pass HB 6557 and extend recreational liability protection to Connecticut's municipalities.

*CACIWC is a non-profit organization working to protect Connecticut's wetlands and watercourses and other natural resources by providing information and educational opportunities for the 2000+ volunteers and staff that carry out the responsibilities of Connecticut's Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetlands Commissions. CACIWC, representing approximately 200 member commissions, works with municipalities and environmental groups to promote public support for the judicious management and conservation of Connecticut's natural resources. For additional information contact Alan Siniscalchi, President at [board@caciwc.org](mailto:board@caciwc.org), or visit our website at [www.caciwc.org](http://www.caciwc.org).*