

To the esteemed members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing to express full support of S.B. 43, S.B. 90, H.B. 5254, each of them acts that seek to expand or amend the existing recreational land use act and provide immunity to various entities that offer free recreational access. As a user and advocate for leisure and educational activities that transpire in Connecticut I have directly witnessed how access to recreational amenities enhances the quality of life of state residents. The organization I represent, New England Flying disc Association (NEFA) has spearheaded the expansion of disc golf courses in Connecticut, providing another free recreational channel for residents. The proliferation of, and access to ALL recreational amenities develops positive personal and civic attitudes that ultimately help retain and attract people to the state of Connecticut.

A paragraph written by Hartford Courant columnist Rick Green on February 4th, 2011 poses an ominous view regarding some of the reasons why residents move away from the state of Connecticut.

"But there's an important lesson < Pfizer isn't moving jobs out of here because of the cost of living, taxes or government regulation. It is moving the research jobs for the same reason that young people leave < there isn't enough going on around here."

<http://www.courant.com/news/breaking/hc-green-pfizer-0204-20110204,0,792051>

My sincere concern is that if residents are already leaving Connecticut because of lack of activity, future limit or elimination of recreational access will only exacerbate this trend and will adversely affect the state's economy and vibrancy as a whole. With that underlying context I am pleased that the bills propose not only to seek to maintain the status quo, but will indirectly encourage further expansion of even more recreational access by dismantling devastating legal barriers that may discourage positive action towards the creation of new facilities.

Thank You for your consideration,

-Dave Mourad
Connecticut State Representative
New England Flying disc Association (NEFA)

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