

Hi Allison,

I am a director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, but more importantly I am a father, husband, and lover of the outdoors.

I write to you today in strong support of S.B. 43, S.B. 90, H.B 5254 concerning use of public outdoor spaces and the liability arising from that use. I hope the legislature will pass these bills quickly.

Connecticut is blessed with many fine trails, forests, parks, and outdoor spaces. If any of us take the time to leave the confines of houses and venture out among the trees we are treated to a wondrous experience. Indeed it is a complete experience of beautiful sights, textures and smells of leaves and streams. It is a place of painted sunrises, rushing waters, majestic trees, woodland animals, and even little squirming bugs. I go there seeking a peace and to admire the world to which we owe so much of our lives. I'm glad that I was able to help my son grow up with those experiences and an appreciation of what lies beyond the pavement.

CFPA and many organizations have worked very hard, for many years to make such places available to all CT citizens. Towns, cities, and other organizations have done wonderful service to all by offering up places where all of us may enjoy. I worry that without some protection they will have no choice but to close access to some beautiful places in the state. It behooves us as a state to make it easier to make such spaces available, not harder, and these bills will certainly do that.

Hopefully my children's children will enjoy the same sights and sounds that I benefited from when I was young. To ensure this, we all, must work together to support the greater good and allow for these places for kids to get out, see, feel, and enjoy nature around them. We need more places for this, not fewer.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment on these bills. I hope they pass quickly.

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