

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this email because I am unable to attend the Public Hearing on February 14, 2011, but would like to go on public record in support of SB43, SB90, and HB5254. I, like many other native New Englanders, am an outdoor enthusiast. I particularly enjoy mountain biking, which I have recently re-discovered after many years away from it. The re-discovery of this sport has also made me appreciate nature in general. By enjoying the woods and trails, one begins to appreciate not only their value to us as an escape from the high-stress world, but also their beauty. Until I started riding on the invaluable trail system that we have in the state, and only with my new-found perspective can I say this, I was taking the outdoor beauty of Connecticut for granted. The idea that the use of these trails by people who could enjoy, support, and protect them could be limited because of an insurance liability is unacceptable. Protection of outdoor spaces comes from people who are passionate about them. Limiting the use of the land would reduce the number of people who may work for its conservation in the future. If action is not taken to protect those responsible for the land on which so many of these trails lie, the trails could be lost to the public permanently. I urge you approve these acts to expand the Recreational Land Use Act.

Sincerely,
Daniel G. Whelton
Manchester, CT