



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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December 2, 2010

State Representative John Mazurek
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
L.O.B. 4060
Hartford, CT 06106 - 1591

Dear Representative Mazurek:

The CCRPA would like your support in restoring full indemnification to municipalities for public use of municipal land. Many of the managers within our Region have expressed concern that recent lawsuits - such as Conway vs Wilton - may force them to close or restrict recreational use of lands under their care because of the large liability judgments that are being made.

Waterbury recently settled for \$8 million with a person who was injured sledding in Fulton Park. The MDC settled for \$2.9 million for injuries to a bicyclist who rode into a gate on MDC reservoir land in West Hartford.

While State initiatives encourage greater physical activity among the public, which recreational lands facilitate, a lack of indemnification leaves the responsible managers highly vulnerable for prohibitively large lawsuits - expenses they can ill afford.

The CCRPA is asking your support because the Region's managers are concerned about this dilemma. They are being asked, and are willing to support, greater use of public lands for recreational development. But the costs of doing so, because of potential litigation, unduly constrain them.

Since we do not foresee any reduction in potential lawsuits, it appears the best solution may be to modify current legislation to more severely restrict the liability our communities must bear. We need your help to address this issue.

Please support legislation that would modify the existing Recreational Land Use Act (CGS §§ 52-557f, et seq.) to provide the protection to municipalities that was eroded by the State Supreme Court ruling in Conway v. Wilton.

Your support of legislation to restore municipal indemnification would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,


John A. Pompei, Chairman
Governing Board


Carl J. Stephani
Executive Director