

My name is Jonathan Kleinberg. I reside at 516 Gardner St., Manchester, CT.

I wish to testify in support of SB831. This bill is needed to keep available municipal land for recreational use. These lands, and the opportunities for recreation that they provide to countless users, are a critical component of Connecticut's quality of life. I also urge that hiking, cross country skiing, cycling, and mountain biking be allowed uses under the statute.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jonathan Kleinberg

Jason Bowsza:

All land should have should be exempt from lawsuits from recreational users. You should be acting for the citizens of CT not some special interest group.

Pete Salomone
176 Red Stone Hill
Plainville, CT 06062

Sir,

Last summer the water company in Hartford almost closed trails to cyclists because of litigation. Out of a spirit of civic-mindedness they changed that decision. However, their concern is well-founded.

As the Chair of the bicycle and pedestrian committee in my town of Weston, I am concerned that many of our lovely town properties might also be threatened with closure because of litigation concerns.

I encourage you to protect municipalities and to keep our outdoor recreation opportunities available by passage of SB831.

Ray Rauth
Weston, CT
203-454-7080

Jason,

Please help fight to keep the West Hartford MDC recreation area open to all. This facility and my love for hiking and biking is the why I bought my house in West Hartford (109 Brookmoor road across the street from the reservoir). Its high use from the community indicates that a great asset it is.

Thank you,

Thomas Coughlin
109 Brookmoor Road
West Hartford
Dear Mr. Bowsza,

Not amending this legislation to provide municipalities reasonable protection is a disservice to the citizens of Connecticut. As a father I find it harder and harder to find safe environments for my children to get outside and exercise riding their bikes, or hiking in the woods. With obesity reaching epidemic proportions, can we as a society really afford to limit our children's opportunities to exercise? Access to open space such as the MDC reservoirs in West Hartford, and the many local greenways are major factors in why we live where we live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Beal

My name is Alan Tinti, and reside at 28 Grouse Hill Rd. in Glastonbury.

I'm a lifelong resident of Connecticut, and an avid bicyclist, hiker, and skier. As an outdoor enthusiast, I treasure the opportunity to use public lands and open space in the state for healthy recreational pursuits, and I'm deeply concerned that recent court decisions and liability awards may result in restrictions on use of public lands unless addressed by the General Assembly. As a taxpayer, I'm also concerned that municipalities such as Glastonbury will face additional costs through liability settlements and/or increased insurance premiums as a result of a gap in the law. I believe that individuals using public lands and open space for recreational purposes need to take responsibility for their own actions, except in cases of gross negligence by the landowner.

I therefore urge that the General Assembly give favorable consideration to SB 831. I also urge that "bicycling" and "mountain biking" be added to the list of examples of recreational purposes in the underlying statute.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Tinti

Honorable members:

I am writing to ask for your support for the restoration of recreational liability protection for municipalities and municipal corporations like the Metropolitan District Commission. I lead a lot of hikes for groups and often use municipal trails to get folks out in the woods. With judgments this past year against the MDC and the City of Waterbury, the potential for municipal risk managers to close trails due to liability concerns is ever increasing. Plus, it really makes no sense to leave municipalities exposed when state and private landowners receive this protection. It makes even less sense when you consider that the state assists municipalities in preserving open space. This same open space might then become unavailable because city or town leaders are afraid of lawsuits.

Janet Ainsworth
169 Northwood Drive
Guilford, CT 06437