



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

TOWN OF GUILFORD

31 Park Street
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437
SETTLED IN 1639

April 11, 2011

Joseph S. Mazza
First Selectman

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Senator Eric Coleman and Representative Gerald Fox
Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee
State Legislature

Dear Senator Coleman and Representative Fox:

I am writing to you to express my support for House Bill 6557 – An Act Concerning Liability for the Recreational Use of Lands. The Town of Guilford has an abundance of recreational open space land that is heavily used by residents as well as visitors. Access to this land is an important part of our quality of life. It promotes exercise and well being and in the long term helps to reduce healthcare costs.

Municipalities, however, need to be protected from frivolous lawsuits related to these properties or we will be forced to close access to the open space or at least begin charging fees to cover the potential liability and legal expenses. The current law is inconsistent in that it protects private and state landowners from potential liability, but fails to do so for municipalities. All landowners, including municipalities, should have to same protections under the law.

I strongly encourage you to approve House Bill 6557. It is important that these open space areas remain free and open to the public, but it is also imperative that municipalities be protected from liability for allowing access to this land.

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Mazza
First Selectman
Town of Guilford

cc: State Representative Patricia Widlitz
State Representative Noreen Kokoruda
State Senator Edward Meyer
Sarah Williams, Guilford Land Conservation Trust President
Martin Mador, CT Sierra Club Legislative and Political Chair