

Dear Planning and Development Committee,

I strongly support all three of the bills related to Acts Expanding Recreational Land Use: SB 43, 90 and 5254.

Restoring the recreational use liability protections to municipalities is essential in today's age of technologically driven socialization and recreation. More and more people are spending less time outdoors enjoying nature's gifts and more time inside tied to their tv's, computers and gaming systems. With more and more of our lands being deforested our ability to go out and enjoy nature is becoming harder to do. Municipalities and non-profit municipal corporations who allow recreational use of their lands are providing an excellent opportunity for all of us. As an avid cyclist there is nothing better after a long day in the office then going to the MDC and spending some time mountain biking, running or hiking the trails available there.

Connecticut's Recreational Liability Statute offers private individuals and utilities a high degree of liability protection while municipalities and non-profit municipal corporations, such as the MDC, have seen these protections dwindle over the years. Those who enjoy the use of public lands need to take responsibility for their actions and we to provide the necessary protections to municipal organizations such as the MDC so that they can continue to offer access for years to come.

I would also like to urge you to include "bicycling" and "mountain biking" in the definition of "Recreational purpose". Bicycling and mountain biking are both recreational activities enjoyed by thousands of CT residents and should therefore be included along with the other recreational activities listed.

Thanks you for your consideration,

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