

Dear Allison:

Please note my support of the following bills:

- S.B. 43: AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT;
- S.B. 90: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT;
- H.B. 5254: AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT.

I am the president of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc. which serves greater Manchester with over 25 parks. Most of our parks have trails or pathways through them. We have kept them open to the public for passive recreation. Many members of the community thank us regularly for this. Many more benefit from having some open space and nature to refresh them. Our land trust, and all trusts like ours, rely upon the protections of CGS Section 52-557g. (Liability of owner of land available to public for recreation.) We do maintain insurance, but that insurance premium would be way too costly for us if we did not have this liability statute.

As much land as the Trust owns (335+ acres), we are surrounded in the Manchester area by much larger tracts of land owned by municipalities. The Town of Manchester Water Department alone controls some 5 thousand acres of watershed lands in Manchester, Glastonbury, Vernon, and Bolton. All these beautiful wooded acres are now open to the public. And the public walks and bikes through them every day. There is nothing so beneficial to our sense of well-being as a walk in the woods. These bills will help insure that every one of us can take that walk. No need for fences and "no trespassing" signs.

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