



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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State Representative DebraLee Hovey  
Planning and Development Committee  
Public Hearing Testimony  
Monday February 14, 2011

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

MEMBER  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, Senator Coleman, Representative Grogins, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman, and Planning and Development Committee Membership:

I would like to thank the Planning and Development Committee for raising **House Bill 5254, AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT**. This legislation is designed to permit municipalities and quasi-public agencies to be entitled to immunity under the Recreational Land Use Act, specifically for the provision of water and sewer services.

It is important that local agencies provide venues for citizens to enjoy recreational activities on the premises of public land. Since citizens fund the agencies via taxation, they are all entitled to use the public land recreationally with the same type of legal status as an owner. A critical nature of this bill can be seen in light of the recent law suit between the Town of West Hartford and the Metropolitan District Commission. The current statute leaves too much room for lawsuits that are unreasonable. Municipalities should be encouraged to provide public land to citizens for recreational use, not be afraid of an accident occurring and suffering subsequent legal repercussions.

I thank the Committee for raising this important bill and ask that it be given a favorable report. I am sure that this statute will be beneficial to all residents of the State of Connecticut.