



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR

Senate Bill 43: *AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT*
Senate Bill 90: *AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT*
House Bill 5254: *AN ACT EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL LAND USE ACT*

Planning & Development Committee
February 14th, 2011

The MetroHartford Alliance is the region's economic development leader and Hartford's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and regional municipalities.

Senate Bills 43 and 90 and House Bill 5254 each propose changes to the Recreational Land Use Act (the "Act") in order to incorporate municipalities, quasi-public agencies and certain special districts in the definition of "owner" of land which is entitled to immunity under the Act. We support efforts to expand the Act in this way to include these lands which are open to the public without fee, charge or rent. These miles of trails give the public the opportunity to walk, run or cycle without concern of automotive traffic. They promote public health and wellness and make our region a more attractive and healthy place to live and work.

Certainly it is understandable that, awaiting the impact of a \$7 billion state budget deficit, our municipalities want to limit the fiscal impact of liability on its taxpayers given the financial settlements of the past year. The Recreational Land Use Act currently specifically limits the liability of private landowners, utilities and corporations who open their land to the enjoyment of the public. We support closing this loophole by amending the Act and including municipalities, special districts and quasi-public agencies.