

## Written Testimony Submitted by Email

**To: Members of the Planning and Development Committee**

**From: Stuart H. Green**

I *support* the restoration of recreational liability protection to municipalities. I am a member of the Redding Conservation Commission; but these thoughts reflect my personal opinion as a volunteer Trail Tender.

Our town open space and many miles of trails are mostly maintained by a dedicated group of some forty volunteers who in good faith do their best to keep the trails open and safe. They volunteer for the same reason many are drawn to our natural areas: hiking our trails invigorates us not just by the exercise but by the adventure of connecting with a natural and sometimes challenging landscape.

Failing to restore recreational liability protection to municipalities may well deter volunteers from joining this good faith effort to maintain our open space and trails.

Many of Redding's trails traverse both public and private open space so the potential liability issue along a given trail has nothing to do with the natural topography or maintenance but simply the whims of judicial precedent.

While our state's towns would likely defend their volunteers under current law, let's restore common sense to the application of recreational liability protection and close the municipal "doughnut hole".

Respectfully yours,

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