

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Valley Driving Club (CVDC), I speak for all of our members in urging the Environment Committee to adopt HB No. 5262 (Raised), AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS AND AREAS FOR EQUINE USE.

CVDC has been in existence since the mid-1970's, and are dedicated to preserving and improving the art and sport of carriage driving. Many of our members also ride their equines, and several are volunteers with the CT Volunteer Horse Patrol, which monitors trails in our state parks. Over the decades, we have seen more and more of our riding and driving destinations disappear. We are eager to maintain access to the trails we have available, and to encourage access to others as deemed suitable. Several of the trails mentioned in HB No. 5262 (Raised) have been used by our club in the recent past and will continue to be so used.

We believe we are good stewards of the spaces we use. We work with the Park Rangers to assist with trail clearing and marking. Horse owners clean up after themselves after our events. We are conscious of the role we play in welcoming other users to our parks and trails, and think we leave a favorable impression on pedestrians, dog-walkers, and families enjoying the outdoors. We feel that we can play a role in encouraging more use of these terrific outdoor spaces.

In summary, for the reasons stated above, we ask that the Committee enact HB No. 5262 (Raised), AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS AND AREAS FOR EQUINE USE. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Erica Robb
Treasurer/Membership Chair
Connecticut Valley Driving Club
www.cvdrivingclub.com