

I fully support the preservation of trails for equine use and ask that ALL voting on this bill continue to preserve the ability of horse owners to ride the CT trails safely and with full support of the state legislators. I have been a life long resident of CT, and as a child I was fortunate to have been allowed to keep my horse (that was a bargain basement sale to my parents through a friend) on a neighbor's land that was adjacent to our modest home in Somers, CT. I was also very fortunate because at the time, (early 1970's) much of Somers was rural, and I could literally ride across the street for miles in open space. Years later that land was sold and "developed" into a residential area.

Fast forward to the early 2000s when I lived in Southbury and would ride my rescue horses on the Larkin Bridle path, it is a lovely path that many horse owners use by trailering their horses from all over the state to ride safely. Those horses are all still in Southbury and continue to be ridden on the bridle path. That trail, and others absolutely need to be preserved. Horses are part of the beauty of CT, and NOTHING must be done that discourages the ownership and enjoyment of owning these magnificent animals. As open space dwindles in this state, and gas prices continue to go up, legislators must help preserve and protect the ability to ride horses safely on these established trails. Most horses are owned by middle class people, and whatever obstacles are thrown in their way will contribute to horses being surrendered to rescues, or going to slaughter.

Sincerely,

Elaine Pacheco

PO Box 49

Winsted, CT 06098