

I support H.B. No. 5262.

I am a Somers, CT resident who purchased her home/farm abutting a CT State forest with the expectation that I would be able to fully utilize the public land for all of my recreation: horseback riding, hiking, jogging, skiing etc. I have worked along side the DEEP in posting horse caution signs (my personal funding) at the entrance to the Shenipsit State Forest roads in order to bring attention to equestrians in the forest for their safety. I continue to help keep our forest clean from the constant trash that is discarded from automobiles along its roads and trails-I do this while riding or hiking the area. The ability of horse back riders to move quietly and non-destructively through the forest trails and roads provides a great opportunity for the DEEP to monitor the trails and keep our forests clean and safe. I have helped guide countless numbers of hikers/bikers who have gotten lost in the Shenipsit back to their vehicles because I am so familiar with all of the marked trails/roads due to my riding and other use of the state forest trails.

Our CT State Forests and public lands are beautiful and fun places to get outside, exercise and enjoy our great state. The trails and open land should be available to equestrians just as they are available to other pedestrians.

I would seriously consider moving from our state if I am banned from using its public lands for my equine recreation.

I appreciate your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

**Pam**

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