



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.

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March 28, 2012

Judiciary Committee
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony against Raised Bill No. 445 - An act concerning liability for the recreational use of land.

Dear Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (Board) **does not support** Raised Bill No. 445 .

The Board under Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-13a(e) has the responsibility of "advising appropriate agencies of the state on policies, programs and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians."

We are concerned that the current law P.L. 11-211 was passed last year after careful consideration and negotiation of the basic elements of the law. P.L. 11-211 is designed to provide Municipalities protection similar to that already provided for the State of Connecticut, Utilities and Corporations and individual land owners. We know of no hardships that this law has caused for any individuals. We see no reason at this time to seek refinements in the current law.

Yet a year later the Committee is considering large carve-outs that proposes to emasculate the current law. The terms in these carve-outs like "boardwalks", "paved sidewalks" and "public beaches" are very broad terms open to large interpretations.

Many trails like the Hockanum River Trail in East Hartford, and Helen's Way in Simsbury that are made entirely of wood in the form of a boardwalk travelling along the river's edge and/or in the wetlands would no longer have the same protection as the other entities.

Paved sidewalks are not just in our town centers, but form an integral part of our trail system. Trails like the Park River Trail in West Hartford and our wonderful paved rail trails that traverse our State would no longer have the same protection as the other entities

Public beaches such as the MDC's Lake McDonough, the numerous "beaches" along the Farmington River would no longer have the same protection as the other entities.

If this law passes, it will have a major negative impact on the available of recreational areas in our Municipal districts.

Sincerely,

Neil S. Pade AICP

Chair Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board