



# Town of Glastonbury

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## PARKS & RECREATION

March 28, 2012

Joint Committee on Judiciary  
c/o Eric D. Coleman & Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chairman  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2500  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill 455  
An Act Concerning Liability for the Recreational Use of Land

Dear Co-Chairmen Coleman and Fox and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

As Director of Parks & Recreation, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 455 which, if passed, would increase municipal liability on all 169 of Connecticut's cities and towns.

Units of local government provide public access to tens of thousands of acres of land for recreation at no charge. The State Legislature rightly approved legislation, Public Act 11-211, which limited municipal liability for recreational use of public lands by the public. The move to exempt public beaches, boardwalks, designated spectator areas, structures to provide seating for spectators at pools, benches, boardwalks, fields, courts, playgrounds, and paved sidewalks open to the public for pedestrian use from the liability protection is problematic and ill advised.

In Glastonbury, the SB 455 would eliminate the liability protection that is currently afforded to the Eastbury Pond Swimming area; one the few public beaches in the Capital region. It would also create an exposure at virtually every public park because of the broad exception proposed for spectator areas and seating and paved sidewalks open to public pedestrian use.

I respectfully urge you to vote against SB 455. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Raymond E. Purtell  
Director of Parks & Recreation

REP:alp