

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:

My name is Charles Beristain and I live in West Hartford. I am a founding member of Bike Walk Connecticut and a member of the Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (we submit an annual report to the Transportation Committee, the Governor, and the DOT Commissioner on bike/ped issues). I am also an advisor to the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee and a member of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) and the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). I ride about 6000 miles per year, many of which are on Municipal trails that would be impacted by the carve-outs in raised bill 445.

I speak today for the Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board and also for myself as an avid user of these Municipal facilities.

The CT Bicycle and Advisory Board does not support raised bill 445. And I as a Connecticut resident do not support raised bill 445.

Current law P.L. 11-211 was just past last year after hard negotiations in order to provide similar protection for Municipalities that exists for the State, Utilities, Corporations, and Private Land Owners. This law has not caused any undue hardships and should remain as currently configured without any of these proposed carve-outs which will completely negate the parity that Municipalities have with the other entities.

Please vote NO on this bill and allow P.L.11-211 to stand without these carve-outs.

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