

Lee Farm LLC
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February 15, 2013

Re: Endorsement of SB-166

Honorable Andrew M. Maynard, Co-Chair Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov
Honorable Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair Tony.Guerrera@cga.ct.gov
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Lee Farm LLC fully supports passage of SB-166

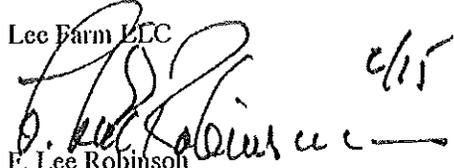
Lee Farm LLC is a 110 year old private family corporation located in Danbury. During our tenure, we have continuously maintained over 200 acres of farm ground and woodlands. Maintenance has included posting Private Land Notices every 25 feet on the perimeter of the property along with locked entry gates to restrict unauthorized access.

In spite of our attempts to maintain privacy, we have experienced increasing unauthorized entries onto our property. These include both people climbing over gates as well as SUV's making new access trails from adjoining properties. Their activities include carving new dirt cross country race courses. In several cases the SUV owners have brought chain saws to clear timber for these dirt courses.

The negative impact on our property is multifold: a) Crossing our boundaries without permission ignores our right to privacy; b) Clearing trees to create dirt trails for the SUV's is willful mischief, and c) The tracks created on the access and dirt trails which the SUV's make loosen the top soil causing erosion and water courses to form. Several times the SUV's have ignored when the ground is saturated which accelerates the damage and erosion process.

On several occasions we have attempted to identify the SUV's with any VIN's or identification markings. Apparently, Connecticut does not require visible equipment identification that we can report to the DEP. However, if we are able to safely apprehend these intruders, we will surely request that they be penalized to the full extent of the law. If you increase the fines, perhaps that may improve deterrence.

Lee Farm LLC


F. Lee Robinson
Manager

P.S. The DEP on site in Jan'13 to deal with a somewhat similar issue. The issue was poaching where the DEP officer, in fact, made an arrest. Unfortunately, the fine was \$100 for the incident: hunting out of season on private land without permission. In actual practice, if we were to charge someone for permission to hunt, legally in-season on our land, the daily fee would be several multiples of the DEP fine for doing it without permission. Perhaps we could keep this in mind when setting the fees for SUV intrusion.