



PETER'S ROCK ASSOCIATION, INC.
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February 20, 2013

To: Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chairman
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chairman
Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

From: Christopher Fletcher: President, Peter's Rock Association, Inc.

Re: **S.B. No. 166 AN ACT INCREASING FINES FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED
OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES ON MUNICIPAL OR PRIVATE
LAND WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LAND OWNER.**

**S.B. No. 190 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PENALTIES FOR
RETRIEVAL OF A DIRT BIKE AND ESTABLISHING A TITLE SYSTEM FOR
DIRT BIKE OWNERSHIP.**

**H.B. 5183 AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL-TERRAIN
VEHICLES.**

Good morning Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the 200 plus members of the Peter's Rock Association in North Haven, I want to thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in favor of Senate Bill 166 – AN ACT INCREASING FINES FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES ON MUNICIPAL OR PRIVATE LAND WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LAND OWNER. I would like to thank Senator Len Fasano for proposing the bill on our behalf. We also support SB 190 and HB 5183.

The Peter's Rock Association was established in 2004 by a group of North Haven residents and others with the assistance of the Town of North Haven. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation similar to the Sleeping Giant Park Association in Hamden. Our mission is to preserve, maintain and improve 220-acres of Town-owned land in the southeast corner of North Haven, bordering the City of New Haven and the Town of East Haven, known as Peter's Rock.

Since our incorporation, our members and volunteers have worked tirelessly to maintain the park and its trails, and to promote its safe use for the community. Yet our efforts have been grossly hindered due to reckless and irresponsible use of all-terrain vehicles and other motorized vehicles in the park. Our primary concern is for the safety and well being of those who hike and walk the trails. This

unwarranted activity has endangered hikers, upset the fragile ecology and disturbed the peace and serenity of the mountain. The all-volunteer organization has had an extremely difficult time maintaining the park trails because of the frequent and unauthorized use by ATV operators.

We have experience widespread damage throughout the park, especially to our trails where deep ruts have been formed causing serious soil erosion and drainage issues. Vegetation and valuable wetlands have also been destroyed. The damage produced by this activity has made hiking difficult and almost impossible in many areas of the park. Furthermore, unmarked trails have been formed by these vehicles, making it difficult for hikers unfamiliar with the trail system to navigate in the park.

It is our hope that these proposed measures and any efforts to penalize those who continue to illegally operate unauthorized motorized vehicles on municipal and restricted properties will help to deter this unwanted and unacceptable activity in our park, and in parks across the State of Connecticut. We urge the committee to adopt this legislation as stronger laws are needed to put an end to the damaging effects of this activity.

We encourage your support of this legislation, and thank the committee for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Christopher Fletcher
President, Peter's Rock Association