

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Environment Committee;

This Friday, March 15, the Environment Committee will consider the subject bill, which seeks to preserve the New England Trail as it passes from Massachusetts to Long Island Sound. My friends and I are enthusiastic supporters of the trail, and are among the many volunteers who proudly devote time to maintain it. We hope you and the Environment Committee will act to support Raised SB# 1015.

We're excited that the proposed bill raises the New England Trail to the same status as the Appalachian Trail, bringing well deserved recognition to the fine hiking available along the high forested ridges of Connecticut.

I believe the Committee would be well advised, however, to remove language authorizing acquisition of property by DEEP through "eminent domain".

The New England Trail is a can be a valuable and low cost recreational asset for the citizens of Connecticut!

Thank you for your consideration,

Bob Foltz,
Deep River