



SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

Testimony in support of S.B. 1015, An Act Concerning the New England National Scenic Trail

Simsbury Land Trust owns protected open space abutting the New England Trail north of Penwood State Park. We have created and maintain a feeder trail that connects a town road to the New England Trail. We are pleased to be able to facilitate public access to the National Scenic trail, which we recognize as a wonderfully valuable recreational asset.

Simsbury Land Trust endorses S.B. 1015. The bill would grant the New England Trail the same status that is accorded to the Appalachian Trail and would thus give the DEEP more tools with which to protect and enhance it. Our own conservation efforts are continuing, and we hope to be protecting more nearby land and to be creating more connecting trails. The recognition given by S.B. 1015 would encourage further private non-profit efforts such as ours.

Our only reluctance about S.B. 1015 is its provision for its use of eminent domain. We do not believe eminent domain is needed and view it as inconsistent with the federal law designating the trail. We hope the bill will be enacted without provision for eminent domain.

This testimony was approved by the Board of Simsbury Land Trust at its March 14, 2013 meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally S. Rieger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sally S. Rieger, Trustee