

Greetings,

I am writing to express my support for H.B. No. 5416 An Act Concerning the Air Line Trail. I have been walking and, more recently in the past few years, biking the Air Line Trail and many other bike-friendly trails in CT almost every week during spring through fall. One thing that has been increasingly apparent to me is the growth in usage of these trail resources. Whereas not many years ago I might come across just a handful of people on the trails, these linear parks are now heavily used during the warmer months. I see people young and old out enjoying them in increasing numbers.

One thing I feel strongly about is that Connecticut could be doing much more to enhance our local economy by investing in and linking these trails with each other, to make them even more attractive to bikers (who are always looking for trails long enough to make a good day ride) and also to link them to downtown areas, where bikers and hikers can stop for meals or stay for the weekend. There are many ways the existing trail system could be linked together and made more accessible and usable, and these resources could then be promoted to the many people in the New England area who are interested in bike touring, a family day out together, a nice weekend get-away, etc. Our neighbor Massachusetts seems to be more pro-active than CT in addressing the economic potential of attracting visitors to our state via eco-tourism promotions and investments.

Any type of easements that would also help link the trail system with local businesses and towns would be good for the users of the trails as well as for the local municipal economies.

I urge the legislators to approve this bill.

Respectfully,
Tobi R. Krutt
Tolland, CT