

Labbadia, Bonnine

From: Jennifer Duff <jenniferduffcreations@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Program Review and Investigation
Subject: Support for Bills HB 5370 & 5369

Dear PRI Committee,

I am writing as I cannot make the public hearing this evening. I think that HB 5370 is a strong bill. In these times of "staycations" and people trying to stay closer to home with their activities I think it makes sense to reinvest the money the parks make in fees into the parks themselves.

I would like you to consider the amount of money in economic value the parks make for the state. According to the DEEP's 2011 Economic Impact study states that "visitors to these venues spent an estimated \$544 million in general tourism activities in Connecticut."

If the parks were allowed to keep some of the money they take in they would be able to make improvements and become even more attractive to visitors. They would be able to increase or at least maintain staff levels. As an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast I think that improvements and maintenance of woodlands and recreational areas is imperative.

Thank you for your attention,

Jennifer Duff

http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/outdoor_recreation/2011economicimpactstudy.pdf