

Testimony on H.B. No. 5416
An Act Concerning the Air Line Trail

Submitted to the Environment Committee

By

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I have lived in Portland,CT for 11 years and love the area! For the past several years I have walked and biked on the East Hampton and Colchester sections of the Airline Trail with friends and family. It's great to have an off-road place to get some exercise and fresh air, and enjoy nature. The trail is a wonderful resource for Middlesex and Windham Counties. What would be even better is if I didn't have to get into my car with my bike on the back and drive to the trail, polluting the air and wasting precious time.

I am strongly in favor of extending the Airline Trail to sections in Portland and Middletown and am willing to serve on a committee of Portland residents to make this happen. Of course it will take dollars as well as the effort of volunteers. I believe spending some of our taxpayer money will be worth every dollar for three main reasons: (1) it will allow more residents to use this historic resource (2) it will be a means of transportation for some individuals between the towns of East Hampton, Portland and Middletown and (3) it could provide an economic benefit to Portland and Middletown as some people using the trail will patronize the local businesses. Finally I believe extending the trail into Portland and Middletown will improve the state of Connecticut for its residents and isn't that the purpose of the CT government?