

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 775, "An Act Concerning the Creation of the Central Connecticut Loop Trail, Public Hearing Feb 13. Support of HB Senate Bill No. 775, provided by Dave Rauch of Meriden

A PDF of this email is attached for your convenience.

This Testimony is in support of *Senate Bill No. 775*. This bill requires the commissioners of Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection to fully coordinate the planning, design and construction of a trail starting in East Hampton, where the Air Line Trail begins and continues east, and continuing through Portland, Middletown, Meriden and Cheshire, eventually connecting to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, which runs north-south from Suffield to New Haven.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts on the need to better promote and benefit from Connecticut's great outdoors by voting for *Senate Bill No. 775*. It will give the people of Connecticut an important new resource to improve their health and well-being. It will improve access to Connecticut's highly appealing outdoor assets and promote economic development associated with use of the trail. It will attract visitors and enrich the lives of residents.

Connecticut's future success requires hard work now and I am happy to see Connecticut's leadership addressing better access to enjoy the environment and other important issues.

Senate Bill No. 775 *is* an important step to take. Providing access to Connecticut's great outdoors requires investment. This program can produce those funds and support. And doing this at the State level aligns with the regional benefits of the trail as well as reinforcing the need for actions taken regionally to support the overall State.

I am proud that we have a state that many feel is a great place to live, do business and visit. Connecticut's rich natural beauty; generally clean, healthy surroundings and easy access to outdoor recreation are very strong components of our State's appeal. The CT environment is a key part of what defines life in CT and protecting it is fundamental to keeping CT attractive.

There is much discussion about less expensive states to retire. We plan to retire in CT because it is a nice home. Like any other home, the things that make it great need to be protected.

Long term success for CT requires that we maintain our strong appeal. And that appeal includes a highly enjoyable great outdoors and a clean, pleasant environment.

Please do what you can to help approve Senate Bill No. 775. Thank you for supporting Connecticut's great outdoors.

Sincerely,

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cc:

Senator Abrams

Representative Santiago

Representative Aresimowicz

Representative Ritter

Representative Klarides

Senator Looney

Senator Duff

Senator Fasano

Governor Lamont

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz