

# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Testimony  
House Bill No. 5726  
Transportation Committee  
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February 19, 2021

Chairman Lemar, Vice-Chairs Cassano and Simms, Ranking Members Carney and Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in support of **H.B. No. 5726 An Act Concerning The Seizure Of All-terrain Vehicles. (HB 5726)**

As the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its 130+ land trusts, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community in Connecticut.

At every level, both public and private, we need to ensure continued quality and active stewardship and management of conservation lands and trails throughout the state. With the majority of our state's land trusts and municipal stewardship efforts operating on the backs of volunteers, this is no easy task. Enforcement of local ordinances seeking to control the illegal use of All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is an especially challenging element of land management in municipalities of all sizes in the state.

Illegal use of ATVs on public and private trails and preserves create a host of damages that are costly to both the environment and the municipalities and organizations responsible for their care. ATV impacts include but are not limited to damage to trails established for hiking and other passive recreational uses; noise disturbance -- impacting people and wildlife; damage to vegetation -- which often hastens the proliferation of non-native invasive species; increased runoff, soil compaction and erosion, leading to the degradation of water quality. Addressing these and other impacts creates a financial burden for municipalities and other landowners, at a time when budgets are already under pressure.

HB 5726 would permit any town irrespective of population to seize an ATV operated in violation of a municipal ordinance, thereby expanding the tools available to law enforcement seeking to control and deter the illegal use of ATVs in their community.

On behalf of CLCC, I thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

