Office Of The First Selectwoman
Town of Seymour
1 First Street
Seymour, Connecticut 06483

Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman

Re: HB 5291

Environmental Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 320
Hartford, CT 06106

Co-chairs Cohen and Gresko and members of the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Town of Seymour, I write in support of House Bill 5291: An Act Authorizing Bonding for Bikeways, Greenways, and Recreation Trails.

HB 5291 would increase the bond authorization for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grants program to $6 million. In the fall of 2021, DEEP allocate a maximum of $3 million to fund twenty worthy projects, leaving $7 million of excellent proposals unfunded. Funding for our green spaces and walkways enhance the character of our towns, and is essential to maintain Connecticut's position as a leader in connected communities and sustainable development.

Leaders throughout the Naugatuck Valley recognize and prioritize our greenspaces as invaluable tools as we grow beyond our industrial base. The Naugatuck River Greenway spans seven miles from Torrington through Derby, but exists in several fragmented segments. Additional state funding would accelerate the connection, allowing us to further other initiatives, including the rehabilitation of Little Laurel Lime Ridge.

I join other Valley leaders in encouraging the Environmental Committee to refer HB 5291 to the full General Assembly with a positive recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A. Drugonis

Annmarie Drugonis
Frist Selectwoman of Seymour

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