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Connecticut Horse Council Action Alert Public Hearing January 31st 2011

SB 831 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL LIABILITY FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN OPEN SPACE LANDS. Purpose: To encourage municipalities and other entities to keep open space lands open to the public for recreational purposes.

There will be a public hearing on this bill in the Environment Committee on Monday, January 31, 2011 at 12:00 P.M. in Room 1E of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 11:00 A.M. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony.

If you cannot attend the hearing, please contact your own legislators to ask that they support and/or cosponsor SB831. When contacting legislators remember to be respectful and polite, and use the bill number and title.

To see the full text of the bill, please visit the Connecticut General Assembly website at www.cga.ct.gov and type the bill number into the search box. This site also provides contact information for your legislators. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact CHC at president@cthorsecouncil.org.

BACKGROUND: On May 2010 a jury awarded \$2.9 million to a mountain biker who was injured by running into a gate at the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Reservoir in West Hartford. As a result, the MDC has given serious consideration to closing their lands to the public, and other municipalities and organizations could possibly do the same. This verdict could have a chilling effect on trail access around the state. CHC is working with many other groups in support of crucial legislation to correct the current situation and protect municipal land owners who open their lands to the public for recreational use at no cost.

**Note: there are also other bills that also have been introduced for this same topic. We will post updates as needed.*

The Connecticut Horse Council is an all-volunteer, not for profit organization dedicated to serving all aspects of the horse industry in Connecticut. For more information, please visit our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org