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## **Connecticut Horse Council Legislative Alert**

### **SUPPORT HB 5262 & SB 262**

#### **Public Hearing March 2, 2012 Environment Committee**

**H.B. No. 5262 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS AND AREAS FOR EQUINE USE.**

Purpose: To preserve certain areas as horse trails.

The Environment Committee will hold a public hearing on Friday, March 2, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 1E of the LOB. Please submit 40 copies of written testimony to Committee staff one hour prior to the start of the hearing in Room 1E of the LOB. Testimony may also be submitted to Jason.Bowsza@cga.ct.gov. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 9:30 A.M. in Room 1E of the LOB.

CHC Supports HB 5262: CHC worked in previous legislative sessions to protect specific named trails so that equestrians can never be excluded from them. This bill would add additional trails to that list so that equestrians may continue to utilize those trails along with other trail users.

#### **Public Hearing March 2, 2012 Planning & Development Committee**

**SB 262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF FARM MACHINERY AND LIVESTOCK AND THE TRANSFER OF LAND CLASSIFIED AS FARM LAND, OPEN SPACE LAND, FOREST LAND AND MARITIME HERITAGE LAND.**

Purpose: To make all horses and ponies exempt from property taxation; to increase the property tax exemption for farm machinery; to amend the date on which a qualified foresters report must be submitted; to require property owners to provide notice of an excepted transfer of land classified as farm land, open space land, forest land or maritime heritage land, and to make other changes concerning the assessment of such classified land.

The Planning and Development Committee will hold a public hearing Friday, March 2, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 2B of the LOB. Please submit 40 copies of written testimony to Committee staff 90 minutes prior to the start of the hearing in Room 2100 of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 9:00 A.M. in Room 2100 of the LOB.

CHC supports SB 262: the current property tax on horses is arbitrary and we feel it should be eliminated.

**If you cannot attend these hearings:** please contact your own legislators to ask that they support and/or cosponsor HB 5262 and SB262. When contacting legislators remember to be respectful and polite, and use the bill number and title. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact CHC at [president@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:president@cthorsecouncil.org).

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](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)