



May 19, 2017

The Honorable David R. Millard
316 Main Capitol—PO Box 202109
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: **Support HB 544, Recreational Use of Land and Water Act**

Dear Chairman Millard:

On behalf of the 75 member organizations of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, I write to request your—and your colleagues’—**support of HB 544**, which is before your Tourism and Recreational Development Committee.

The final passage vote for this legislation last year was 187-2 in the House.

HB 544 would amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to limit the liability for personal injury or property damage of **landowners who generously open their lands to public use for hunting, bird watching, hiking, and other forms of recreation**. It ensures they will not be punished for allowing the public on their land at no charge.

The Association’s member organizations work with landowners to conserve their land and to provide safe and responsible recreational opportunities to the public. Landowner fear of liability is often an obstacle to establishing trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities. By providing assurance to landowners that their public-minded decisions to provide access won’t be punished with undue liability, House Bill 544 will expand recreational opportunities for the public.

Landowners and the public deserve the protections and recreational opportunities that this bill promotes. Both of their interests would benefit from the passage of this bill.

On behalf of the 75 member organizations of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and the 120,000 Pennsylvanians they count as members, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Loza
Executive Director

- Voting Members*
- Allegheny Land Trust
 - Allegheny Valley Conservancy
 - Allegheny Valley Land Trust
 - Allegheny Valley Trails Association
 - Appalachian Trail Conservancy
 - Armstrong County Conservancy Charitable Trust
 - Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
 - Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy
 - Berks Nature
 - Brandywine Conservancy
 - The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation
 - Central Pennsylvania Conservancy
 - Centre County Farmland Trust
 - Chestnut Hill Historical Society
 - ClearWater Conservancy
 - The Conservation Fund, Pennsylvania Office
 - Countryside Conservancy
 - Delaware Highlands Conservancy
 - Earth Conservancy
 - East Nantmeal Land Trust
 - Eden Hill Conservancy
 - Edward L. Rose Conservancy
 - Evergreen Conservancy
 - Farm and Natural Land Trust of York County
 - Foundation for Sustainable Forests
 - Fox Chapel Land Conservation Trust
 - French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust
 - French Creek Valley Conservancy
 - Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
 - Heritage Conservancy
 - Hollow Oak Land Trust
 - Independence Conservancy
 - Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation
 - Lackawanna Valley Conservancy
 - Lancaster County Conservancy
 - Lancaster Farmland Trust
 - The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
 - Land Conservancy of Adams County
 - Lebanon Valley Conservancy
 - London Britain Land Trust
 - Lower Merion Conservancy
 - Manada Conservancy
 - Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy
 - Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy
 - Mokoma Conservancy
 - Montour Trail Council
 - Mount Nittany Conservancy
 - Natural Lands Trust
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Neighborhood Gardens Trust
 - North American Land Trust
 - North Branch Land Trust
 - Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy
 - Open Land Conservancy of Chester County
 - Pennsbury Land Trust
 - Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society
 - Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
 - Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust
 - Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association
 - Pocono Heritage Land Trust
 - The Radnor Conservancy
 - Regional Trail Corporation
 - Schuylkill County Conservancy
 - Somerset County Conservancy
 - Susquehanna Greenways Partnership
 - Tinicum Conservancy
 - The Trust for Public Land
 - The Wallace Trust
 - West Pikeland Land Trust
 - Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
 - Westmoreland Conservancy
 - Westmoreland Land Trust
 - Wild Waterways Conservancy Inc.
 - Wildlands Conservancy
 - Willistown Conservation Trust
 - Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

