

January 27, 2023

Kimberly Bradley, Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Bradley,

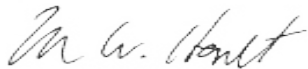
On behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I write to enthusiastically support the Town of Bolton's application to DEEP's Recreational Trails Grant Program. This funding would be used to construct a parking lot that allows public access to the Nathan Hale Corridor, providing easy, safe, and convenient access to all who wish to explore this beautiful piece of Connecticut.

Currently, no public parking exists in Bolton; however, some hiking events have been permitted on a case-by-case basis by the Bolton Board of Selectmen and local residents can access the land on foot. The property is full of natural wonders--high ridge lines, three waterfalls, hemlock groves, huge boulders, a marsh and streams--making it an asset that residents from all neighboring towns can enjoy.

The proposed parking lot will create a clear and designated location for users' convenience as well as their safety. Other benefits associated with locating the trails and designated parking facilities in close proximity include reduced traffic congestion due to less street parking, better lighting which increases visibility, and less trash and litter on the trails.

I encourage you to approve this application for the reasons stated above. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

Cc: CRCOG Policy Board; J. Rupert, Town of Bolton