<u>SEPTEMBER 14, 2021</u> BLUE VALLEY TIME



Help Protect Park And Trail Volunteers From **Baseless Lawsuits**

By Chief Executive Officer / Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society

Pennsylvania's municipal parks, state parks, trails and other recreational assets on public lands benefit from countless thousands of hours of labor contributed by volunteers and volunteer organizations such as friends' groups. These volunteers give freely of their time on behalf of their communities. They help keep trails open, assist with park maintenance, and enhance the quality of these public recreational assets.

In recent years, however, volunteers and volunteer organizations in Pennsylvania have been the subject of baseless lawsuits that have nothing to do with their work but merely with their association with a park or trail. As a result, volunteer organizations are now faced with rapidly rising expenses for liability insurance, which divert much needed funds away from projects. One friends group was even forced to go out of business due to two baseless lawsuits.

Bi-partisan legislation has now been introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that would protect volunteers and volunteer organizations from these baseless lawsuits. House Bill 1694 has been referred to the House Tourism & Recreational Development Committee, which could consider the legislation this fall.

We need your help to boost support for this legislation. Please consider contacting your state representative in the link below to request that they support and co-sponsor House Bill 1694. We have provided a sample email letter, which we encourage you to personalize if you know of parks and trails in your area that benefit from volunteers.

Go to this link to send an email to your state representative https://prps.org/TakeAction#.



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HOURS:

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HELP WANTED

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