



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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January 28, 2014

The Honorable Jim Rausch, Chairman
and Senate Transportation Committee
NH State House, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 240-FN, an act relative to a reduced fee on OHRV registrations for persons who are members of an OHRV club.

Dear Chairman Rausch and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Trails in opposition of Senate Bill 240-FN as written. While we commend the bill's intent to encourage OHRV riders to become members of a club, we believe this legislation will have an overall negative impact on the OHRV experience in the state.

As written, this bill reduces the registration fee paid by OHRV riders who are members of a recognized OHRV club which is a member of the NH Off Highway Vehicle Association. The bill eliminated the deposit of a portion of the registration to the Grants-In-Aid Program for members of a recognized club. The only funds that would go to the Grants-In-Aid Program would be registrations from those who choose not to join a club. This program provides grant funds to OHRV clubs for trail construction and maintenance projects, as well as providing funds to purchase trail maintenance equipment.

The fiscal note for this bill identifies that this bill would reduce Grants-In-Aid funds to clubs by \$305,440 annually. This is a 92% reduction in revenues to the program based upon NHOHVA proposed club membership levels. Though we fully support the concept of increased club participation and membership in the OHRV community and wish to see the volunteer clubs financially stable we cannot support the current proposal to remove the majority of the trail maintenance funds which are used today.

The Bureau of Trails has been meeting with the NH Off Highway Vehicle Association and NH Fish & Game Department to assist the Association and Clubs on a possible solution to their membership and financial concerns and are committed to continuing to do so. While there may be other opportunities to promote OHRV use through legislation, we regret that we must oppose this legislation as written.

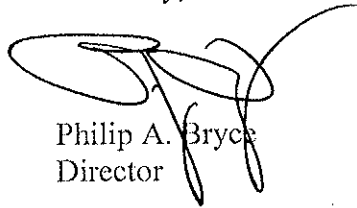
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Thank you for considering this testimony. Please contact me should you require any additional information.

Though Chris Gamache, Bureau of Trails Chief, will not be available today to answer questions that you may have regarding our testimony; he will be available to the committee for follow up and he will plan to be in attendance at the Executive Session of SB-240-FN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P" and "A".

Philip A. Bryce
Director

PAB/cg